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# THE TIMES

Laying the ghost  
of Keynes:  
Ronald Butt, page 12

## 'Two-speed' plan for EEC economic integration

A plan for "two-speed" European economic integration was put forward yesterday by Mr Leo Tindemans, the Belgian Prime Minister. It would allow weaker EEC members, such as Britain and Italy, to lag temporarily behind the more prosperous nations.

## Safeguards proposed for poorer nations

From Michael Hornsby  
Brussels, Jan 7

A "two-speed" move towards the economic integration of Europe, in which weaker members of the EEC, such as Britain and Italy, would be allowed temporarily to lag behind their more prosperous fellows, is the most concrete and detailed proposal of the report on European union made public here today by Mr Leo Tindemans, the Belgian Prime Minister.

The idea is very similar to the one advanced amid some controversy in late 1974 by Herr Willy Brandt, the former West German Chancellor, except that Mr Tindemans is at greater pains to spell out various safeguards which he believes would prevent the gap between rich and poor EEC members becoming permanent.

He also calls on member states to "take the political decision to pursue a common foreign policy within a given number of specific fields, selected in relation to their importance and the practicability of fulfilling them". More coordination of national policies is no longer enough, he says.

Prime importance should be given to the establishment of a new world economic order to relations between Europe and the United States; to security and defence affairs; and to the "crises occurring within Europe's immediate geographical surroundings". He explains that by the latter he means the situation in the Middle East and such countries as Spain and Portugal.

European union, which Mr Tindemans sees as only a stage in the evolution towards what he believes must ultimately be a federal system, can only be achieved through the consolidation and strengthening of the EEC's existing institutions. For the present, Mr Tindemans does not see any value in proposing elaborate new constitutional structures for the Europe of the future.

His report urges that the guiding role of the European Council (summit meetings of heads of government) should be more strongly asserted, with decisions on Community matters being taken by majority.

The European Council should determine the broad outlines of policy, leaving the detailed implementation to a strengthened Council of Ministers.

Continued on page 5, col 1

## Palestinians overrun Christians in Beirut

Beirut, Jan 7.—Supported by intense rocket, mortar and aircraft fire, several thousand Palestinian guerrillas pushed out of an encircled refugee camp today, overrunning Christian lines and seizing a strategic two-mile arc of territory in eastern Beirut.

Initial police estimates put early casualties in the battle at 22 dead and about 50 wounded. This raised the toll of nine months of Christian-Muslim warfare to about 3,100 dead and 17,275 wounded.

In Kuwait today Mr Abdel Halim Khaddam, the Syrian Foreign Minister, was quoted as saying that Syria would intervene to stop any attempt to breach up Lebanon as a result of the civil conflict.

In a statement published by the Kuwait press, Mr Khaddam said: "Lebanon used to be part of Syria and we shall take it back at the first serious attempt at partition."

He arrived in Kuwait last night on the second stage of a tour of Gulf states to prepare for the opening next Monday of the United Nations Security Council debate on Palestine.

Mr Pierre Gemayel, the Phalangist leader, said in Beirut today that his militia would fight to the last man if Syrian or Israeli troops invaded Lebanon. He added that the Lebanese crisis could lead to a third world war.

Palestinian and other Muslim forces pushed north and west from the 14 Zaatari refugee camp in an attempt to break a Christian blockade of food and supplies to the encircled camp, lasting five days.

They pushed north one mile to the Muslim suburb of Nabatiya, driving a corridor through Christian territory to bring supplies of food for the camp's 6,000 residents and the 30,000 Muslims who live in districts round it.

They pushed west also about one mile to the outskirts of the Christian bastion of Sin al-Fil. A spokesman said they expected to overrun it before the day was out.

Christian militia spokesmen said that the Christians were launching a counter-offensive to regain the lost territory, but 12 hours after the battle had begun, they still appeared to be losing ground to the Palestinians.

As the fighting intensified it spilled over into the adjacent Christian and Muslim areas and a big battle for eastern Beirut seemed imminent.

The Palestinians aim seemed to be to drive the Christian forces west across Beirut river, leaving them trapped between the east bank and Muslim left-wingers controlling the western quarter of the city.

Christian forces on the west bank were coming under shell fire to prevent them from sending reinforcements to the front.

Christian forces on the east bank were believed to number about 2,000 men, mostly from the right-wing Phalangist party and the National Liberal Party of Mr Camille Chamoun, the Minister of the Interior. They also had the support of several hundred members of the internal security forces, with armoured cars and personnel carriers. The Palestinians and left-wing forces threw about 3,000 men into the battle.

There was a growing conviction on both sides that the civil war was heading towards a climax. "This is it, we are finally coming down to the crunch of the whole war," a Christian street fighter said.

In their counter-offensive, the Phalangists shelled and re-took the Hayek hospital clinic seized by Palestinians in the morning burning.

A Phalangist spokesman said that six people were inside the clinic when the Palestinians took it, including two patients, a doctor, a nurse and two attendants. He believed they had been taken to the 14 Zaatari camp.

The Palestinians still held on to their other main positions, a vocational training school, the home of a Phalangist leader and two strategic traffic intersections north of the camp.

Negotiations to establish a new ceasefire failed when the left wingers and Palestinians refused to attend a meeting of the supreme coordination committee. They stormed out of the committee threatening violence unless the Christian blockade against the 14 Zaatari camp was lifted.

A meeting of the Cabinet was also suspended because several ministers were trapped behind zones of fighting.

## Special Air Service unit ordered into south Armagh

By Our Political Staff

The Government has decided to send a contingent of the Special Air Service Regiment, trained to deal with guerrilla warfare and insurgents, into Northern Ireland's troubled county of south Armagh where 10 Protestants were massacred on Monday night.

A Downing Street statement said: "The Government has decided further to reinforce the Army in Northern Ireland with elements of the Special Air Service. These troops will be used for patrolling and surveillance, tasks for which the SAS are particularly well-suited."

The news of the SAS reinforcement 24 hours after the decision to put a further 600 troops into south Armagh was criticised last night by Mr Gerard Feeney, leader of the mainly Roman Catholic Social Democratic and Labour Party. He said: "People in Northern Ireland, I believe, would apply the same standards to the SAS as they do to the CIA." He added: "I do not think they would be helpful in a situation such as this." His colleague, Mr Paddy Devlin, added: "It is only a cosmetic exercise. The SAS have always been here."

Mr George Younger, shadow Defence Secretary, and Mr Airey Neave, the party's spokesman on Ulster, both welcomed the move.

Christopher Walker writes from Belfast:

As the first wave of British reinforcements moved into the border district of south Armagh yesterday Provisional Sinn Féin, the political wing of the Provisional IRA, was snubbed in its efforts to set up new talks with the Provisional Army men instrumental in organizing the discredited ceasefire.

After a request from Sinn Féin's president, Mr Rory O'Brady, the church leaders issued a six-point statement refusing to begin talks in the Irish Republic until the paramilitary organisations order an end to the sectarian violence.

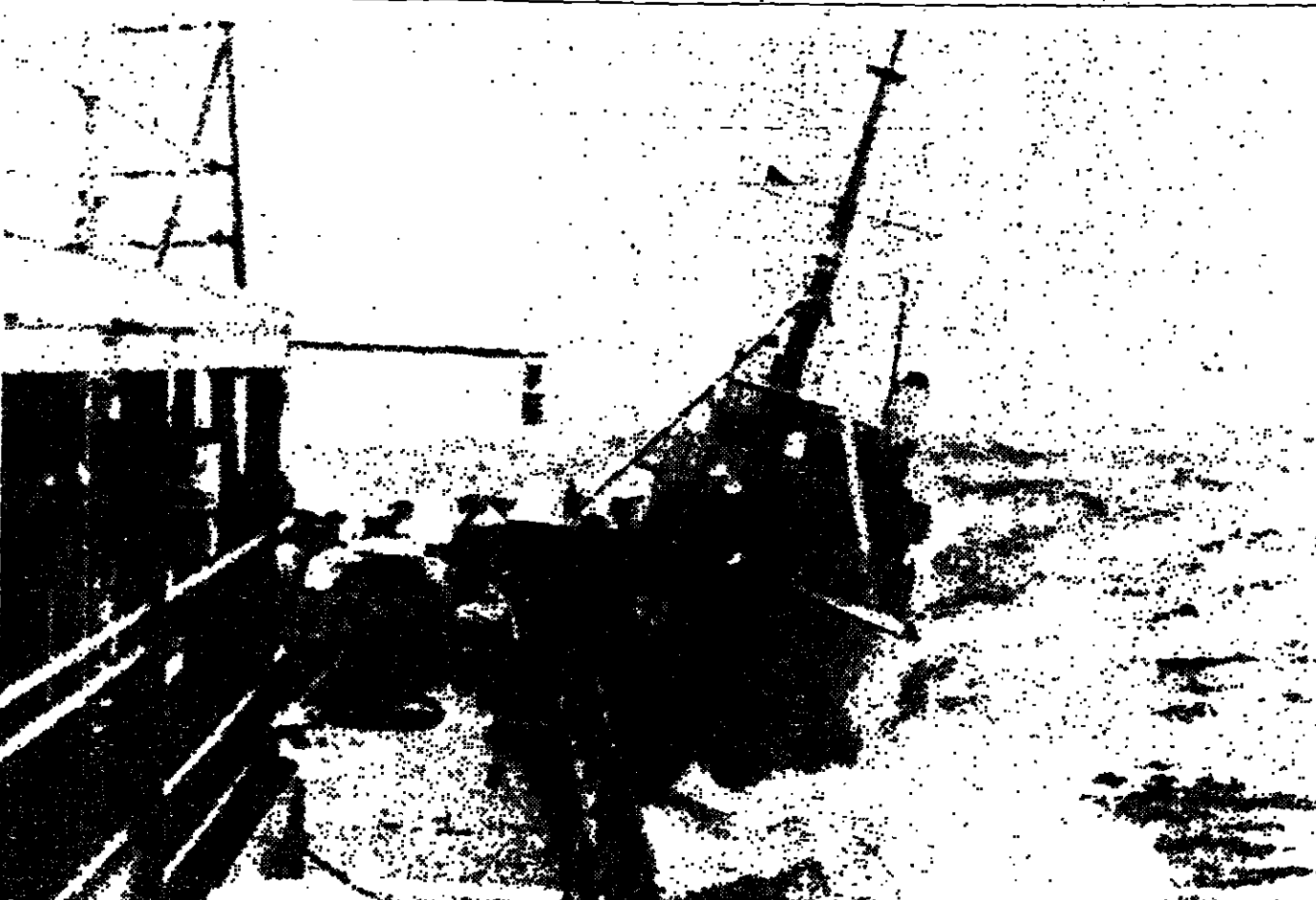
The decision, which is taken in Northern Ireland as recognition that the churchmen were in danger of being used by the Provisional movement for propaganda purposes, rules out for the moment further initiatives along one of the few routes still open for finding at least a temporary solution.

In a statement issued through the Rev William Arlow, secretary of the Irish Council of Churches, the churchmen said: "These killings can be stopped if all paramilitary organisations decide that they will not be party to any such activity and that they will do all in their power to prevent their personnel, or others known to them, from taking part in such assassinations."

The churchmen involved in the peace talks at Fealty, Co. Clare, added: "We see no purpose in attempting private negotiations in a situation where the onus is on others to call off the killings. The time is not for talking, but for action. We call upon the leadership of all paramilitary organisations to issue, without delay, an order forbidding all acts of aggression or retaliation at least for such time as will test the willingness of the other side to do the same."

The statement was also signed by the Right Rev Arthur Butler, Bishop of Connor; the Rev Eric Gallagher, a former Methodist minister; and Dr Stanley Worral, former headmaster of the Methodist College, Belfast.

Meanwhile, on the eve of the vital border security talks between Mr. Rees and Mr. Cooney, the Irish Minister for Justice, the RUC said that a van found abandoned in the Irish border town of Dundalk on Tuesday was similar to one seen speeding from the scene of the massacre on Monday night. Ulster Special Branch detectives are convinced that it was used by the 12 terrorists who carried out the mass murder, but an Irish Government spokesman said there was no evidence to support that.



Moment of impact: The Icelandic gunboat Thor colliding with the frigate Andromeda yesterday. "A deliberate attack", says Britain. Report on page 5.

## £58m cut in councils' spending on housing

By John Young  
Planning Reporter

A significant reduction in permitted capital expenditure on housing by local authorities was announced yesterday. Excluding new building, on which the Government has declined to place limits, the total allocation for 1976-77 is £765m compared with £827m in the present financial year, a cut of £58m. That represents a cut of just over 7 per cent, not allowing for inflation effects.

The reduction lends weight to the Government's expressed determination to cut public sector borrowing. The total allowed for the "municipalisation" of private property, for example, is £175m, compared with £185m. For renovation of council-owned dwellings it is £270m (including the £10m announced by the Treasury in October to relieve unemployment in the building industry), compared with £285m this year.

The largest reduction is in the amount available for local authority mortgage lending, which is down from £275m to £220m. A study group last year under the chairmanship of Mr Ffreeson, Minister for Housing and Construction, concluded that that was the area needing least.

Ministers claim to be encouraged by the apparent readiness of building societies to take greater risks in granting mortgages and to venture into "grey areas" much more than had been expected. In the third quarter of 1975 just under 19 per cent of mortgages granted were on pre-1914 properties, and about 27 per cent were to borrowers earning less than the average manual wage.

The societies are expected to meet the local authority associations in a few days to discuss council guarantees on loans to approved borrowers.

The Government expects the local authorities to regard themselves as lenders of last resort, and has asked them to guard against a shortage by not committing more than three fifths of their quotas in the first half of the year.

The only increase in allocations is for local authority grants and loans to housing associations, from £82m to £104m. That is a result of the unexpectedly high number of applications under the Housing Act, 1974.

About 85 per cent of next year's allocation is needed to cover expenditure on projects already approved, and yesterday's announcement said the number of new approvals would have to be much lower.

However, about £20m will be available to loans from the Housing Corporation.

Blow to London: Mr Richard Balfe, chairman of the Greater London Council housing development committee, said the cut for modernising council homes would, if applied to London, have a depressing effect on the council's strategy of urban renewal (the Press Association reports).

He expected, however, that the allocation of funds to London councils would enable current programmes to continue.

Housing finance, page 3  
Leading article, page 13

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Housing finance, page 3  
Leading article, page 13

## Influence of consultants in dispute is condemned

By John Roper  
Medical Reporter

Consultants have used their position to try to influence junior doctors not to take industrial action. That was stated at a meeting of the Council of the British Medical Association yesterday, which condemned the consultants' action.

During a debate on the junior doctors' dispute, the council recorded its "total condemnation of any misuse of patronage by any member of the profession in any attempt to influence action of other members of the profession in any dispute in which official industrial action has been advised."

The council asked its executive, in consultation with the central ethical committee, to consider what action to take where evidence of misuse existed and to give guidance. It is understood that only a few consultants have made things difficult for their juniors who have been involved in industrial action.

Junior doctors have to move from hospital to hospital and to a degree depend in their early careers on recommendations from their seniors. The issue was raised not by a junior doctor but by a senior member of the council.

Agreement between junior doctors and the Government appeared to be in jeopardy last night after a meeting between the doctors' leaders and officials of the Department of Health and Social Security to discuss the independent audit of over-time payments.

The feeling among the doctors' leaders was that, in words of one, "the department will wriggle again".

## Italian Cabinet resigns after Socialists withdraw their support for coalition

From Peter Nichols  
Rome, Jan 7

The fall of the Christian Democrat-Republican coalition means the end for the time being of the Government's plans for financing industrial reconversion and southern development. Although strongly criticized by the Socialists they were regarded elsewhere as better than nothing at this painful moment in the country's economic affairs.

In their statement, the Socialist leadership accused the Moro coalition of paying no attention to the Socialist Party's proposals on economic policy but taking measures which were not only inadequate but dangerous because of their consequences on employment.

The situation was too grave to call a general election, but required that the coalition be replaced by a broadly based administration "conscious of the emergency nature of the situation" to the Socialist proposals.

Any remaining hopes that the Moro coalition might save the coalition evaporated when a meeting of the Government's national executive concluded with a statement the tone of which left no doubt about their intentions. Furthermore, their call for an emergency administration to replace the coalition was known to be totally unacceptable to the Christian Democrats.

Although not members of the Government, the Socialists provided its majority in Parliament.

## Britain may get higher IMF loan limit

Britain will be allowed to borrow more cash from the International Monetary Fund under a new plan being worked out in Kingston, Jamaica. Announcing the plan yesterday, Mr Healey, Chancellor of the Exchequer, said he could not estimate how large the increase in Britain's IMF credit line would be.

Page 15

## Shares ownership row 'with DPP'

The Director of Public Prosecutions is believed to have received a report on facts leading up to a dispute over the ownership of a block of shares pledged as security by Mr William Stern, whose property empire collapsed in 1974. Page 15

## Cubans misinformed

Cubans captured by UNITA in the Angola civil war were told before leaving that they would be fighting against foreign invaders. Page 6

## Nixon man fined

Mr Ralph Newman, a literary scholar, was fined \$10,000 (£3,000) in Chicago yesterday for making a false statement in connection with Mr Nixon's tax. Page 7

## Troops run trains

The Spanish Government last night called out specially trained Army personnel to operate some of Madrid's strike-hit underground trains. Page 5

## NCB puts £250m plan to Mr Benn

Mr Wedgwood Benn, Secretary of State for Energy, is studying a confidential plan by the National Coal Board, designed to save £250m in fuel imports. It involves persuading generating authorities to increase the coal used at several power stations. Page 15

## Licensed credit

Over 100,000 businesses involved in credit transactions will have to obtain £45 consumer credit licences under regulations announced yesterday. Page 15

## Mrs Thatcher in Cairo

Mrs Thatcher, Leader of the Opposition, has arrived in Cairo for a fact-finding tour of Egypt and Syria. Page 5

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Books, page 10	Michael Rawliffe on two new studies of Gustav Mahler; Richard Holmes on French and English; Richard Eber, H. R. F. Keating on Francis Clifford's last novel
Obituary, page 14	Sir Thomas Monnington; Mr A. Dixon Wright; Mr J. C. Amory; Mrs J. A. Amory
Sport, pages 8 and 9	Crickets: Australia win fourth Test to lead 3-1 in series; Football: Stand collapse puts off FA Cup replay; Olympic Games: Latest report on progress at site; Racing: Prospects for two meetings
Business News, pages 15 to 19	Stock markets: GNR had a hectic session and equities saw a 2000 two-way trade. The FT index closed 52.26 better at 269.5.
Home News	2-4
European News	4-5
Overseas News	5-7
Diary	7
Appointments	14
Arts	14
Books	14
Business	15-19
Chess	19
Church	14
Court	2-4
Crossword	7
Engagements	14
Features	7
Letters	14
Motoring	14
Obituary	14
Science	14







## HOME NEWS

### Mature students often live in poverty, union tells ministry

By Our Education Correspondent

Many students aged 25 and over are living below the poverty line, the National Union of Students says in a memorandum to the Department of Education and Science, published today.

"Many mature students with families, often running two homes and committed to a higher level of expenditure than the average student, cannot live on the present level of grant without extreme difficulty and without putting their families at risk," it says.

Mr Charles Clarke, president of the National Union of Students, said: "We had a very extreme case recently of one of the Department of Education and Science's own mature-state scholarship holders who was forced to live in a grant accommodation so as to have enough to provide for his wife and family. He was finally forced to drop out of his course, suffering from malnutrition."

"That student was not in receipt of a mature student allowance because he just failed to earn the requisite amount in the years preceding the start of his course."

Mr Clarke said the present requirements that students should have earned a quarter more than the total grant would continue to penalize some mature students, and should be stopped.

The union also calls for an improvement in the rate of grant for students with two homes. It says the present grant of £4.47 a week is derisory. It is meant not merely to cover the cost of renting the second home but also the cost of food and household essentials.

"The families of mature students are living considerably below the poverty line, and yet, because the parent is a student, there is no way in which family income supplements may be obtained." The union says students are also unable to claim rent allowance.

The NUS asks the department to copy the example of the training opportunities scheme administered by the Department of Employment. Under that scheme a person aged over 20, without dependants and living away from home, has a grant of £14.65 a week and is given board and lodgings free or an allowance to cover them, as well as other benefits.

The department is also taken to task over its treatment of students who have dependants, such as parents. In almost every case, the union says, the allowances paid to students' dependants are less than the child allowances paid by the Supplementary Benefits Commission. The union also asks the department to reduce the age of independence for students from 25 to 21 as a first step towards abolishing the means test.

### Servicing of electrical goods still faulty

By Our Consumer Affairs Correspondent

In spite of the introduction of a voluntary code of practice by manufacturers the servicing of domestic electrical appliances is no better than a year ago, according to Which?, the Consumers' Association magazine. The January edition says that new machines are not proving trouble-free, either.

That depressing picture of servicing and reliability has been drawn nine months after the Association of Manufacturers of Domestic Electrical Appliances (Amdea), announced its code of conduct. It was devised in conjunction with the Office of Fair Trading, and aimed at providing speedy, efficient and effective servicing at a reasonable cost.

Which? concludes that, in general, machines are not being built to be more reliable, and the quality of service the consumer can expect does not appear to be moving any nearer to Amdea standards. The magazine adds that the most reliable machines are not necessarily the most expensive.

Furthermore, the manufacturers who produce the most fault-prone appliances do not always compensate by providing the best after-sales service. Servicing is more expensive than 12 months ago, and repairs are slightly less slow with repairs (to cookers) than gas boards, but were more expensive.



George Burns and Walter Matthau, the American comedians, with "the two Jacks", London buskers, after a reception yesterday to launch their new film, "The Sunshine Boys".

### Taxation blamed for reduced tree planting

By Our Political Staff

The national stock of trees is diminishing at an alarming rate and the Government's taxation policy bears much of the blame, Mr Michael Jopling, the Conservative spokesman on agriculture, suggested in a speech in Liverpool yesterday.

Dutch elm disease had killed more than 6,500,000 trees in the south of England alone, but taxation measures had greatly reduced tree planting.

A survey published last June had indicated that private foresters had abandoned, postponed or curtailed nine tenths of planned plantings, three fifths of them had named the capital transfer tax and fears of a wealth tax as the main reasons for reducing their investment.

He added: "Our reliance on imported timber makes it the third most costly article on our import bill. Last year timber from abroad cost £2,000m."

### Prisoner found hanged

Royston Hopkin Jones, aged 33, serving 30 months' jail for burglary and theft, was found hanging in his cell at Swansea prison yesterday.

### New house finance move possible

By John Young Planning Reporter

By about the middle of the year the Government hopes to have completed and published a comprehensive review of housing finance in Britain. At worst it will do no more than state the obvious; at best it could provide the basis for a new approach to a subject beset by ideological prejudice.

The gradual disappearance of the private landlord has caused a growing polarization between those who can afford to become owner-occupiers and those forced to rely on hard-pressed local authorities for housing.

Mr Crosland, Secretary of State for the Environment, and Mr Fresson, Minister for Housing and Construction, have repeatedly deplored that fact and have emphasized the need for a "third arm" in the provision of housing.

Their main step towards that was the Housing Act, 1974, a genuinely two-party piece of legislation, because its main provisions were drafted by the Conservative Government and revived almost intact after Labour came to power.

The Act has caused some grumbling among councils, mainly because of section 105, which requires government approval of expenditure on cou-

verting and improving older houses. But its main purpose was to revitalize housing associations and to increase funds available in grants and loans from the Housing Corporation.

Up to a point it has worked well, but many people in what is widely referred to as the voluntary housing movement think more is needed.

Mr Kenneth Walker, director of the United Housing Associations Trust, which acquires land and borrows money on behalf of a group of associations, advocates much closer links between the Government, the associations, building

societies, banks and finance houses and even the formerly powerful but now struggling property developers.

Mr Walker emphasizes that he is not trying to get the developers out of trouble. But he believes that, for instance, a group of associations could join forces with a property company to redevelop a site for mixed housing and commercial purposes.

The cost of the housing would be met partly by grants and partly by loans, either from banks or from the Housing Corporation.

Leading article, page 13

### Tied-cottage plan deplored

By Our Agricultural Correspondent

Farmers contributed assets worth £900m to the national stock of houses, Mr George Innes-Lillingston, a Crown Estates Commissioner, told delegates at the Oxford Farming Conference yesterday. The Government's decision to abolish the tied cottage was doctrinaire and unnecessary, he added.

More than 90,000 houses are occupied by farmers, their em-

ployees and agricultural pensioners, and are maintained by farmers at no cost to the state, he said. Abolition of tied cottages would push farm workers into council houses, which were let at a loss.

Can the tiny number of those evicted, whether by agreement or not, really merit the dogmatic thinking at the back of the measure?" he asked. The decision to abolish typified the trend "to find a

### Judge asks ministry to reconsider bed refusal

Judge Bush at Birmin

Crown Court yesterday the Department of Health reconsider its refusal of a maximum security hospital for Martin Rodway, aged 18, regarded as a dangerous psychotic. He directed that late, department still refused to justify the decision to his court next week.

He said it was clearly a her where Mr Rodway should be sent to a maximum security hospital. "On the evidence regard him to be a danger any lesser course is taking of he said.

Mr Rodway, of Hawker Dfior Castle Vale, Birmingham, admitted putting a fatal dose sodium cyanide in the afternoon tea at the factory where he worked as a polisher. Five people, including his father-in-law, were detained in hospital after tasting it.

Dr William Canning, a Home Office psychiatrist, said that Garcia Rodriguez, a psychiatrist sent by the Department of Health to examine Mr Rodway, had agreed with him and another psychiatrist in their diagnosis, but not with their conclusion about the need for security.

"That does not alter my view at all," Dr Canning said. "He has committed a most dangerous act and I have no evidence that he will not commit such an act again."

The judge adjourned the case for a week for the department to reconsider.

He ordered that, if it was still not prepared to make a maximum security place available, Dr Rodriguez should be in court to give evidence.

### Typhoid confirmed

A Pakistani aged 30, from Accrington, who was taken ill on returning to England from a five-month stay in his native country has typhoid, it was confirmed at Blackburn yesterday. His condition is satisfactory.

### Waterloo line reopens

The Underground line between Waterloo and the City of London reopens on Monday after an almost normal service after being closed for seven weeks because of flood damage.

### QE2 passengers fly in

One hundred and sixteen passengers from the QE2, which hit a reef last week in the Bahamas, arrived at Heathrow yesterday. The ship docked for repairs at Norfolk, Virginia, and will continue on to their destination, New York, by rail.

### British could eat well for £2 a week, magazine says

The British could live well and cheaply on a diet of liver, cheese, raw cabbage, wholemeal bread and water, according to today's issue of Which? magazine, published by the Consumers' Association.

Canned pilchards, curries, and black treacle instead of sugar could add variety for little more than the £2 a week the basic diet would cost.

"Eating cheaply might mean giving up one or two of your favourite foods", the magazine suggests.

"But it doesn't mean that you will live on potatoes and skimmed milk for the rest of your life". For the seven essential nutrients, protein, iron, calcium, and the vitamins B1, B2, C, and niacin, can all be found cheaply in some quite unusual foods.

The average family spends about £4 a week on food for each member, the magazine says, but that cost can be almost halved if the right diet is followed.

Stews and soups with lentils, dried and split peas or haricot beans, brewer's yeast, beef extract, canned pilchards, kidney, eggs and cheese are all cheap and nutritious. Even cornflakes are suitable, provided they are fortified with vitamins.

Britons often eat too much, the magazine says, and some doctors think an excess of animal fat and sugar is a factor in heart and digestive diseases. Cutting out cream and confectionery could be good for economy and health, while cheap cuts of meat are just as nutritious as best steak.

### Unions continue talks on rail cash cut

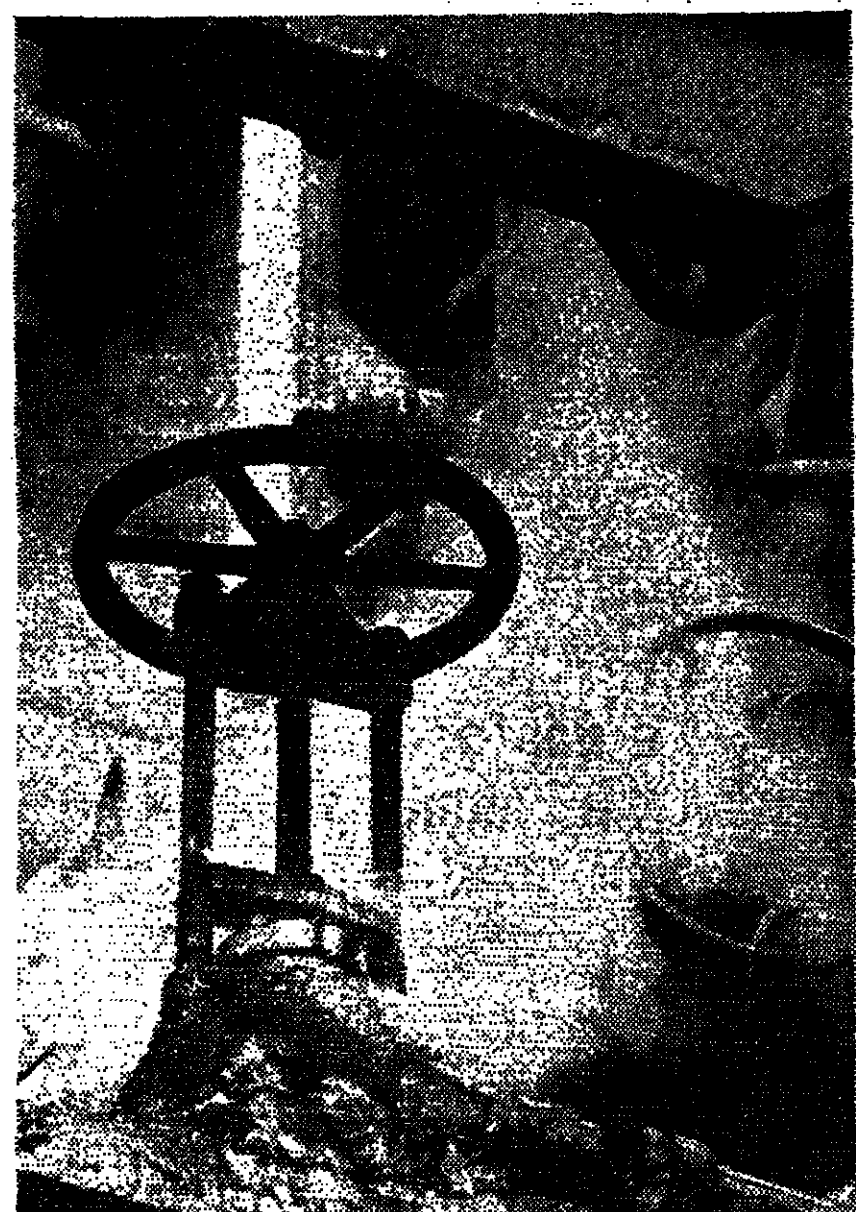
By Our Labour Staff

Leaders of the three main railway unions, worried by the threat of widespread closures in British Rail's network, continued their talks over the future of their industry yesterday when they met BR representatives.

The unions have been protesting over the Government's intention to reduce investment in the industry and have forecast that the network might be reduced from 11,000 to 4,000 miles. The ministry, however, says it has no such plans.

When the Government proposals are made known, probably about Easter, the unions may well have participated in the joint Railway Productivity Steering Group set up by British Rail in 1974 to examine ways of improving efficiency in the industry.

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HOME NEWS

# Vary defendants now little of appeal safeguard

By Peter Evans  
Affairs Correspondent

Defendants in a survey by two leading academics published today knew about the safeguard of appeal proceedings, but were apparently seriously underinformed by their advisers, and very seldom attempted to exercise their rights under the appeal system. Yet nearly all tried in the higher courts to get legal aid.

The book, based on criminal cases begun in the adult courts of Sheffield over a six-month period, is by Dr A. E. Bottoms, Director of the Centre for Criminological Studies at Sheffield University, and Professor J. D. McClean, Professor of Law there.

They say that concern, fortunately, exists within the legal profession about the failure in the giving of advice and assist-

ance. An unofficial group of practitioners, academics and civil servants met to consider the question under the leadership of the late Mr Justice Bean. The result was an official document on appeal procedures, which drew attention to the rule of legal aid.

The book also more generally blames the criminal justice system for not properly informing defendants of their rights, but they would never cover the whole country. "There seems a real need to increase the provision of information to defendants about the courts and their procedures."

Even a well informed defendant might plead guilty although believing himself to be innocent. The book cites the rule of sentencing practice allowing lower sentences for guilty pleas. While the rule had no-doubted advantages, the possibility that it might encourage spurious pleas raised a strong case for its abolition.

The suggestion that guilty pleas should be carefully examined by the court before being accepted would at least go some way to mitigate any possible malpractices in the way in which such pleas were encouraged by the police.

Defendants in the Criminal Process (A. E. Bottoms and J. D. McClean, Routledge & Kegan Paul, 57.30).

# 4 children and family of three die in fires

Four children died in a fire at a house in Rucklidge Avenue, Willesden, north London, yesterday.

They were Joyce, aged eight, Eric, aged five, Paul, aged four, and Sylvia, aged nine months, whose parents are Mr and Mrs George Koporo, who came from Nigeria.

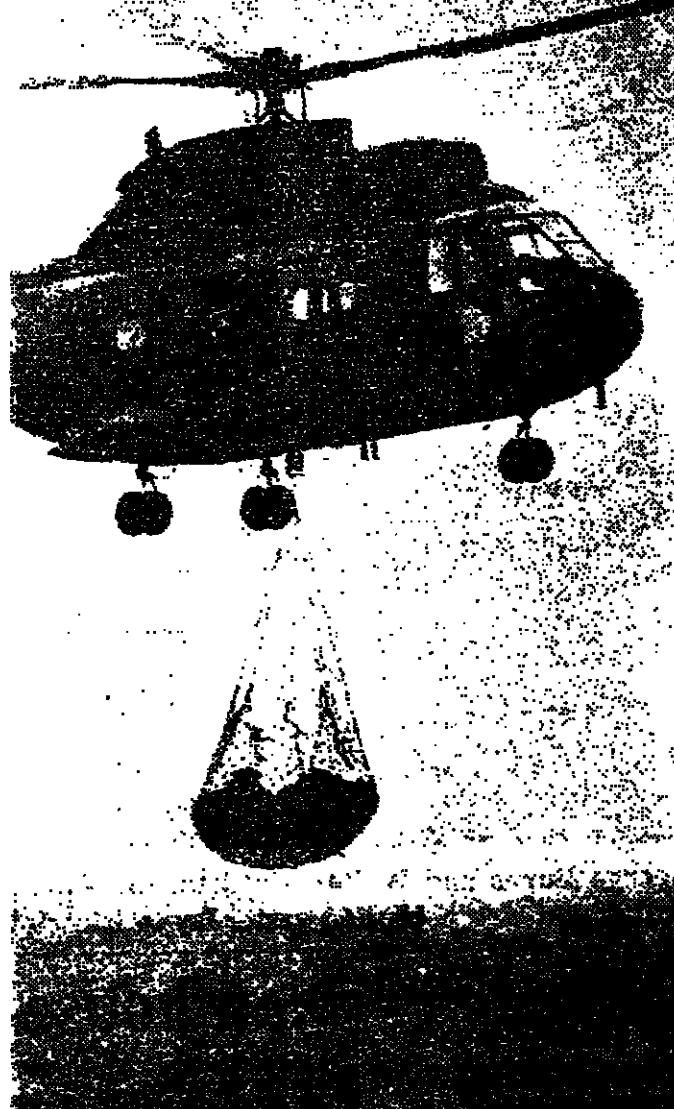
A neighbour said she found Mrs Koporo in the street screaming for help. With her was her son, George, aged three. Neighbours and passers-by tried to get in but flames beat them back.

When the fire started Mrs Koporo and George were on the ground floor. The other children were on the first floor.

In the Tuebrook suburb of Liverpool early yesterday Mr George Martin, his wife, Marie, and their baby daughter died in a fire in a terrace house in Antrim Street. A police officer said it was thought that they were overcome by smoke.

Police officers searched for a woman, aged 81, missing after a fire at Fingringhoe Hall, near Colchester yesterday.

Firemen continued their search of the Brighton flat, known as the Royal Hotel, where four residents died on Tuesday. Two others who had booked a room were unaccounted for, but the belief was growing that they were not in the building. The police named a third victim yesterday, Mr Henry Lamont, a Chameleon. A woman is still unidentified.



An RAF helicopter plugging gaps in the protective wall at Breydon Water, Norfolk, after the storms.

# Coincidence over tax papers, QC says

J. Murphy and Sons Ltd, the construction company which is alleged to have been part of a conspiracy to defraud the Inland Revenue of more than £1.4m, suffered because of a coincidence during the investigation into its affairs, it was stated yesterday.

Mr John Leonard, QC, for the prosecution, at the Central Criminal Court, said that while tax officers were visiting the company in January, 1973, some of the labour time sheets were brought into the office.

The Inland Revenue needed them to complete its inquiry into a tax officer "borrowed" them, promising to return them on his next visit.

Mr Leonard said that three days before that visit the company's finance director complained to the Inland Revenue about the "improper methods" used to obtain the sheets and threatened to approach the local MP.

After the Inland Revenue visit the company wrote to say that many of its documents had been destroyed by flooding.

The prosecution has said that Murphy employees were "dressed up" as subcontractors in order to avoid PAYE. Three of the nine defendants are senior executives.

Also alleged to have defrauded the Inland Revenue are J. Murphy and Sons Ltd of Highbury Corner, London, and J. M. Pilling Ltd, same address.

Mr James Gwynn, QC, representing the defendant companies, said during yesterday's hearing that some press reports had made an incorrect reference to a figure of £4,894,525.

That figure, which was given by Mr Leonard in his opening speech, did not refer to the gross tax return for the company for the two years in question, as the reports stated. In fact, it referred to a wage bill set out in quarterly returns for various workers.

The Murphy companies had paid about £10m a year in corporation tax, PAYE and other tax not connected with the present case.

The trial continues today.

# Storm victims may get aid

Mr Crosland, Secretary of State for the Environment, said yesterday that if a relief fund for victims of last week's floods and gales was opened to public subscription the Government might make a contribution.

"In deciding whether to do so and what amount would be appropriate consideration would be given to the extent of the damage, the total value of claims on the fund, and the amount of money subscribed by the general public and by other local and public authorities."

Mr Crosland said in a statement that existing legislation allowed councils to make grants or loans to people affected by emergencies such as flooding.

The situation at the weekend was exceptional, with sea levels at least as high as those reached in the 1953 flood disaster. He had been impressed by the way essential services dealt with the immediate problems.

# Scots claim backing from Labour

From a Staff Reporter  
Glasgow

The breakaway Scottish Labour Party said in Glasgow yesterday that it had the official party in Scotland was melting away. It presented Mr Danus Skeue, former Labour candidate for Kilmarnock and West Fife, at a press conference, as its latest recruit from the Scottish executive of the Labour Party.

Mr Alec Neil, former research officer at Labour Party headquarters in Glasgow, who resigned to help in founding the new party, was appointed full-time secretary. He said recruitment would start immediately and the inaugural meeting would be held in Glasgow on January 18. Pledges of support had come from several constituency officials and local government members. Some members would go as delegates to the official party conference in March and he expected further support would emerge then.

"The point is that support for the Labour Party as it is in Scotland is just melting away," he said.

Mr David McMullan, an Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers official and the new party's industrial organiser, said they had been assured of two hundred members among shop stewards.

Yesterday's developments drew a sharp response from official party headquarters in Glasgow. Mr James McGrandle, interim secretary of the council, said that the council had warned Mr Skeue that his presence at the next executive meeting would be highly unethical. In a letter to him, Mr McGrandle accused Mr Skeue of "surrendering" but the Labour Party in Scotland is clearly worried about the emergence of this new socialist group.

The SLP wants to see more control over Scottish industry and finance resting in Scotland and is fiercely opposed to the Government's plans for devolution. Significantly, the new party will be officially launched on the day that Mr Ross, Secretary of State for Scotland, launches the official party's publicity campaign promoting the devolution White Paper.

# Minister scorns idea of a federal system

By Our Political Staff

Mr Gerald Fowler, Minister of State, Privy Council Office, yesterday scolded the idea of introducing a federal system of government in the United Kingdom as part of the devolution package.

Speaking at Strathclyde University, Mr Fowler, who, with Mr Sherriff, Lord President of the Council, was the leading ministerial architect of the devolution proposals, said an immediate difficulty was that England had 84 per cent of the population of the United Kingdom and an existing federation contained elements of "such extraordinary disparity as would result from a federation of the four constituent countries of the United Kingdom."

He argued that a federal system would mean that the amount of money available for economic adjustment between the richer and poorer regions would be much reduced.

# WEST EUROPE

# Giscard warning on the influence of pressure groups

From Charles Hargrove  
Paris, Jan 7

On two occasions within 48 hours, President Giscard d'Estaing has insisted on his Government's attachment to a "liberal rule" in matters of press and information. He has also said that the reform of a state radio and television, now one year old, has been "very positive."

"I think it is independent of pressure groups," he emphasised in an interview last night. "That is to say, I do not think television directors and journalists say to themselves: I will say this or that because a pressure group asks me to do so. On the other hand, you can be influenced by pressure groups because they are very skilled. They spread information, create an atmosphere, and from time to time we perceive the echo of campaigns which in fact reach as far as information."

The President was referring to the alleged left-wing bias by the autonomous television channel.

Asked whether he had ever had occasion to regret the first time he wished to give radio and television the President replied: "Never." But he admitted that the standpoint of television news broadcasts had sometimes made the task of the Government more difficult for instance, the affair of Mme Françoise Claustre, the French ethnologist who has now been a prisoner of Chad guerrillas for nearly two years.

But that was the price of freedom. "Freedom of information sometimes creates problems for us. I know that information on radio and television in this country is independent. That is to say, one knows that the French press is free of information which can embarrass the course of French policy. But abroad, one does not always

know it. And abroad the idea is that the media are more or less controlled.

"For instance, the Chadian Government was convinced that some documents concerning the Claustre affair had been broadcast with the French Government's approval."

President Pompidou at a press conference in 1972 had affirmed that "whether one wishes it or not, a television journalist is not a journalist like any other. Whether one likes it or not, television is regarded as the voice of France both by Frenchmen and by foreigners. This calls for a certain restraint."

For President Giscard d'Estaing, television journalists are journalists like any others, who must have the same independence, and be subject to the same rule of objectivity as other journalists.

So long as people could say that television expressed the views of the Government, it could not be judged. But now that it was independent, he judged it, and he sometimes said to himself: "Well, this presentation of the facts is not quite in accordance with what I imagined to be the truth."

The President has also expressed the wish that both the press and radio and television should follow rather more the Anglo-Saxon example of separating news from commentary. Unlike his predecessors, he is a regular reader of one or two English language newspapers, and he was obviously drawing from personal experience.

He expressed the wish that the French press should devote more coverage to world events, and he encouraged it to indulge in an examination of the ethics of journalism.

# EEC's deal with Tunisia ends source of friction

From David Cross  
Brussels, Jan 7

Tunisia today became the first Arab country to conclude a new trade, aid and co-operation deal with the European Community.

The completion of negotiations at dawn removed one of the main sources of friction between the Community and the Arab world. The conclusion of a similar agreement with Israel last summer cast a shadow over the Community's earlier attempts to improve its relations with Arab countries bordering the Mediterranean.

The most significant element for the Tunisians in the new deal is the Community's agreement to offer preferential access for vital Tunisian agricultural products like wine and olive oil. Both will be allowed into the Community at special cut-rate tariffs.

The Tunisians have also been promised financial aid totalling 95m units of account (E50m) in grants and loans over the next five years.

Moreover, Tunisian nationals working in the Community will receive improved social security benefits.

The agreement, which will have to be ratified by both sides, is the third element in the Community's plans for the creation of a vast free trade area spanning about a dozen Mediterranean countries. In addition to the agreement with Israel, the Community completed negotiations with Malta for an improved preferential trade and aid deal a fortnight ago.

Negotiations with Morocco and Algeria are to resume within the next few days in the hope that similar agreements can be concluded this month. As talks with the three Maghreb countries have been proceeding at about the same tempo, the Community hopes the agreement with the Tunisians will provide a timely precedent for the conclusion of negotiations with their Arab neighbours later this month.

# Town councillor accused in cafe fire case

From Our Own Correspondent  
Brussels, Jan 7

A second man has been arrested in connexion with last week's cafe fire in La Louviere, Belgium.

He is Mr Gilbert Vandewoerde, the town councillor responsible for public utilities. Like the owner of the cafe in which 15 young people died during a New Year's Eve party, he has been charged with manslaughter and causing bodily harm through negligence.

The examining magistrate apparently suspects Mr Vandewoerde of having turned a blind eye to reports from the local fire chief about the lack of adequate safety precautions in the cafe.

Brussels, Jan 7.—A boy of 11 died and three people were injured in a fire in a cafe at Seneffe, near Liege, today.—AP.

# Community sets precedent by Soames visit

From Our Own Correspondent  
Brussels, Jan 7

Sir Christopher Soames, the European Commissioner for External Affairs, today began the first visit by a member of the EEC's executive to an East European country. Only three days after his return from two months' sick leave, he left Brussels for a three-day visit to Bucharest.

The ostensible purpose for his visit, which was at the invitation of the Romanian Association of International Law and International Relations, but during his stay he is expected to have talks with Government leaders as well.

Romania, in common with other Comecon countries, still does not officially recognise the European Community. However, it has always made it clear that it would welcome closer relations and for the past couple of years has taken advantage of the Community's generalised preference scheme designed to encourage the industrialisation of developing countries.

# French mission to former colony

Paris, Jan 7.—M Robert Galley, Minister of Supply, is to lead a French mission to Chad to draft a co-operation programme with the former colony.—Agence France-Press.

# Kidnapped record company chief found by police

Paris, Jan 7.—M Louis Hazan, a wealthy recording company executive who was kidnapped on New Year's Eve, was found unharmed today in a house in a village near Chartres, south-west of Paris.

He was found alone and tied up in the house by police from Versailles who had joined in the search for him.

Two members of the kidnapping gang who had been named earlier and the ransom of 15m francs (£1.6m) was never paid in line with a new tough police adaptation of the Ministry of Interior in dealing with those who seize hostages.

Three suspected members of the gang were captured earlier and the ransom of 15m francs (£1.6m) was never paid in line with a new tough police adaptation of the Ministry of Interior in dealing with those who seize hostages.

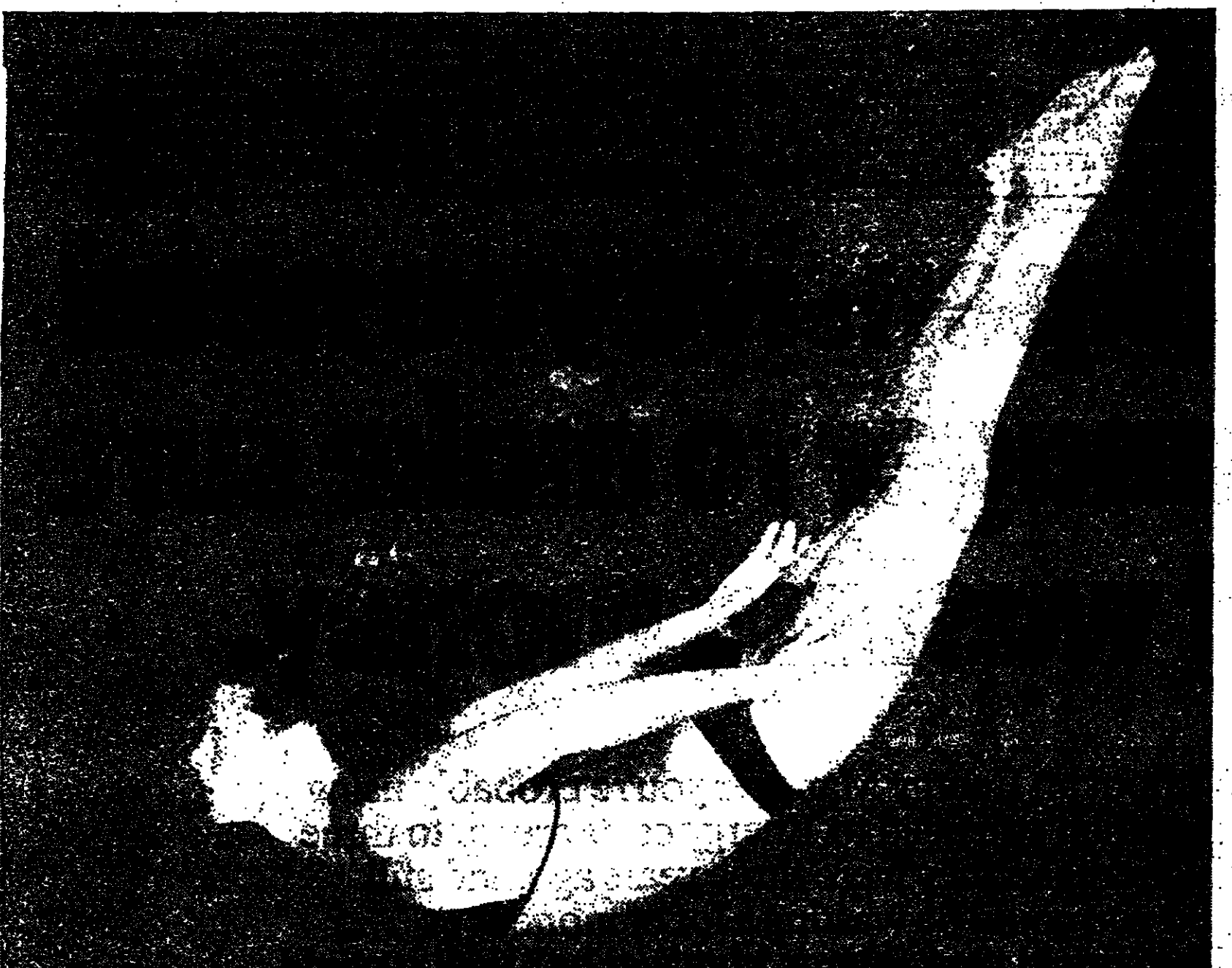
The Versailles police immedi-

ately notified headquarters in Paris of M Hazan's safe return and officers telephoned Mme Hazan at their home.

At the Hazan apartment in a luxurious quarter of Paris, a family friend told reporters: "We have learned the good news. Mme Hazan is waiting for her husband."

The kidnapping gang earlier today offered to exchange M Hazan for two men captured by the police last night.

The police not only turned down the exchange offer but proceeded to arrest a third suspected kidnapper this morning. They said their tough stand was the result of a decision by the Ministry of the Interior that police under no circumstances would allow the payment of the ransom demanded.—AP.



# Costs take a dive

More than ever before, owners and operators of indoor swimming baths are faced by rising energy prices with increasing costs for maintaining comfortable temperatures for swimmers. If pool temperatures are reduced, attendances fall. If the heating and ventilating system is switched off when the pool is unoccupied, the resultant condensation can cause deterioration of the building fabric.

# How to save energy and money

Realising the problems, engineers in the Electricity Boards pursued the idea of applying heat recovery systems to swimming pools. In particular, heat pumps had already

been used in Germany to produce worthwhile savings. Benefiting from this experience, Electricity Boards have built up considerable expertise, and today heat pumps are a proven method of cutting energy costs.

Basically, heat pumps are refrigeration machines arranged to operate as heat extractors. In an indoor pool, the warm moisture-laden exhaust air contains a great deal of heat which is extracted by the heat pump and transferred at an increased temperature to heat the ventilation air, pool water and shower water simultaneously.

# What does it cost?

The extra equipment needed increases the capital costs of the mechanical and electrical services for

a new pool by some 15-20%—but a reduction in the running costs of some 50% could be achieved. This means that a typical energy cost of £60 per year to heat each square metre of pool surface could be reduced to £30. Savings of this order allow a payback of the extra capital costs in two or three years. Thereafter these savings will continue to be made. Not only of money, but of the nation's energy.

Existing pools can also benefit from heat recovery, provided they are heated and mechanically ventilated. The capital costs of the heat recovery equipment will be higher than those for a new pool, but similar savings can be achieved.

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## WEST EUROPE

## Troops sent in to get strikebound Madrid Metro working

Madrid, Jan 7.—The Spanish Army began running the Madrid Metro, the underground railway system, tonight as the Government moved gingerly to break a strike that is challenging the new regime's authority.

Fearing a possible labour backlash, the Government refrained from the moment, however, from conscripting the Metro strikers into the Army.

Specially trained troops got the first train moving at 6.45 pm after a day that had seen the worst traffic jams in Madrid's history.

The uniformed Army crews, railway engineers, first tested their skills with empty trains for an hour before admitting passengers free. Police travelled in the first carriages to leave.

Our Madrid Correspondent writes: The strike crippled city and industrial life today.

Police used tear gas to break up a demonstration, and in the early hours of the morning, evicted some 2,000 strikers, including 200 women, who had been staging a sit-in in the Church of Our Lady of Luján.

Many of the strikers then went to the Church of San Federico near by and the police again dispersed them, using batons and tear gas. No arrests were reported, but it was believed several people were injured.

It is not known whether the police obtained the permission of the ecclesiastical authorities before entering the churches. Permission is needed under the Concordat which regulates church-state relations.

The municipal authorities laid on extra buses to take workers to factories in the industrial suburbs. According to one estimate, the buses managed to transport 800,000 of the two million people who use the Metro.

Nevertheless, thousands of people were unable to get to work, as streets were clogged with slow-moving traffic. Taxis did good business. There were

several angry scenes, when people tried to hail ordinary cars with plenty of room for passengers, but most drivers refused to stop and drove on. Some people walked to work. The strikers are in a defiant mood as they have shown by their action and demonstrations. The Government is anxious, according to reliable sources, not to appear soft, and give in; but it does not want to take repressive action and lose the confidence of workers, particularly after the Government has promised to introduce democracy eventually.

The strikers' demands became clearer today. They want their working week to be reduced from 44 hours to 40, an immediate special bonus of £125, and an increase of about £50 in their monthly wage. Their present monthly wage is about £120.

Officials from the Metro company were meeting all day to try to find a way of solving the strike, which if it continues could have severe repercussions on industry in the capital.

Meanwhile, in Barcelona, Father Luis Maria Xirriach, who was one of the candidates for last year's Nobel Peace Prize, was arrested outside the city's Model Prison for leading a demonstration for an amnesty.

Father Xirriach has repeatedly been on hunger strike for an amnesty and has spent several years in prison. His latest strike in the Montserrat abbey near Barcelona ended in November. Since then he and other people have been congregating outside the prison demanding an amnesty. The police dispersed about 400 people who were demonstrating along with the priest.

Small groups of extreme right-wingers have also been parading near the prison. This morning some of them carried iron bars disguised in newspapers. They also carried placards protesting against any idea of an amnesty.

## 'Real convergence' of EEC policies urged

Continued from page 1

monetary union, Mr Tindemans thinks, would be to tighten the "collective discipline" of the so-called "snake" system, whereby six of the Community's currencies are confined within a narrow band of fluctuation.

To make it more difficult for countries to leave the "snake", as France did some time ago, participants would be required to "undertake to withdraw from it only in cases of 'manifest crisis' as established by a joint decision".

To make it easier for weaker currencies to stay in the "snake", the "machinery for short and medium-term support between members of the 'snake' must be made automatic and considerably strengthened", Mr Tindemans says. This would mean creating the embryo of a European central bank and some pooling of reserves.

"Those countries in the 'snake' must gradually abolish the remaining obstacles to the free movement of capital between them", Mr Tindemans says that "measures must be worked out to help Britain, Ireland and Italy to join the 'snake' but he is not very specific about what form they should take."

He makes clear, however, that the three weak countries should be involved in all discussions concerning the development of the "snake" system and that they must share and work jointly with their colleagues for "a real convergence of economic and monetary policies".

In foreign policy, Mr Tindemans attaches particular importance to relations with the developing world. At international negotiations, such as those in Paris concerning energy and raw materials, EEC members must "in every case place the primary interest of joint action above their divergent opinions and interests".

Mr Tindemans proposes that member states should strengthen such joint action "by gradually transferring to the Community a substantial part of national appropriations intended for development co-operation".

On security, Mr Tindemans says that the Nine should continue to coordinate their policies, on détente, and related political, military and economic matters, as they did at the Hel



Mr Tindemans yesterday: 'Snake' system supported.

sinki conference. He believes that in the long run "European union will not be complete until it has drawn up a common defence policy", but he acknowledges that this is not something for the near future because of the sharp divergences of national policy.

As a beginning, however, he recommends regular exchanges of views on defence and security matters and also says that the Nine should "co-operate in the manufacture of armaments with a view to reducing defence costs, and increasing European independence and the competitiveness of its industry". He commends the steps already taken in this direction within the Eurogroup and the Nato alliance.

In a letter to fellow heads of government accompanying his report, Mr Tindemans says that he believes his proposals for European union are realistic and feasible. He says that he has tried to steer a middle course between proposals so modest that they would be "unworthy of our faith in Europe" and schemes so Utopian that they would lose all credibility in the eyes of national governments.

Leading article, page 13

## Lisbon denial that escudo is to be devalued

From Michael Knipe  
Lisbon, Jan 7

With Portugal's economic plight beginning to make itself felt by way of food shortages in the shops, Dr Rui Vilar, a vice-governor of the Bank of Portugal today dismissed the prospect of an imminent devaluation of the escudo.

Answering questions after speaking at a businessmen's lunch, he said that devaluation to be effective it needed to be accompanied by a package of other measures and Portugal was not prepared for this. "If we devalue we would have to pay more for our imports and as we are not able to increase our exports, devaluation would be a loss for the Portuguese economy".

He added that International Monetary Fund regulations would prevent a special rate of exchange being created for foreign tourists. However, plans are understood to be in hand for petrol to be made available to tourists at the old price of 1250 escudos (44p) a

litre for the highest grade instead of 17.50.

Declaring his optimism that Portugal would overcome its economic difficulties, Dr Vilar said that as far as he knew no country had ever gone bankrupt.

For the moment, however, Portugal is beginning to suffer the consequences of the spending spree and disruption of production that has occurred over the past 20 months and which has resulted in an acute shortage of foreign exchange.

Housewives in Lisbon are experiencing food shortages and high prices which threaten to become more acute. Meat is increasingly hard to get and some shops are rationing customers to half a kilo (just over 1lb) each. Milk is scarce and butter impossible to obtain.

The Revolutionary Council is reported to be concerned over the way in which both right and left-wing elements may exploit the economic problems.

## OVERSEAS

## Gunboat's collision with British frigate 'a deliberate attack'

By Robert Fisk

The British frigate Andromeda and the Icelandic gunboat Thor collided yesterday 40 miles off the east coast of Iceland. In the House of Commons, Mr Roy Mason, the Minister of Defence, said that the Thor holed herself by trying to collide with the Andromeda. The Icelanders accused the Andromeda of ramming the Thor.

According to Mr Mason, who apparently regards the incident as a deliberate attack on a British ship without regard for life, the Thor had tried only 10 minutes before to force the Andromeda against a trawler.

So adamant was the Royal Navy yesterday that it was not to blame for the collision that the Ministry of Defence sent radio photographs of the incident to most national newspapers in London. An official at the ministry added that the Andromeda's sides are made of steel only 1in thick.

According to Mr Mason, the Andromeda was on a steady course at 12.20 yesterday after-

noon and was trying to prevent the Thor from cutting the wires of the trawler Fortia. "Without warning", he said, "Thor altered course violently to starboard and rammed Andromeda's port quarter. Ten minutes earlier Thor and Andromeda were passing close by the trawler Ross Resolution at 20 knots when Thor deliberately altered course in an attempt to force Andromeda onto the Ross Resolution."

As a result of the collision, Mr Mason said, the frigate suffered superficial damage. Mr Mason's account is partly borne out by the evidence of a Reuters correspondent on board the Andromeda. He reported that the frigate was maintaining a steady speed and course when the Thor moved towards her.

The Andromeda, he said, sounded six short blasts on her horn—the signal meaning "You are not taking sufficient action to avoid collision"—and repeated the warning three times. The Andromeda received a 12ft dent in the hull.

The Icelandic coastguard, however, said yesterday that the Andromeda had rammed the Thor and had done so "in the traditional way"—by overtaking the gunboat and suddenly changing course while alongside.

The coastguard claimed that the incident seemed to be part of a concentrated effort to ram patrol boats, and complained that earlier in the day the British frigate Naiad had repeatedly tried to ram another gunboat, the Tyr.

Captain Gunnar Olafsson of the Tyr reported that the Naiad "had gone wild" in an attempt to sink his ship. Captain Helgi Halverson of the Thor, well known in Britain for his willingness to give television interviews about the Royal Navy's activities in Icelandic waters, said that only one British trawler was fishing in the area at the time.

The Foreign Office last night instructed Mr Ken with East, the British Ambassador in Reykjavik, to make a formal protest to the Icelandic Government about the collision.

When the Yugoslavs were openly saying that the resumption of pro-Soviet activity was encouraged from abroad.

The best known of the four is Mr Brkic, former Vice-President of Croatia, who sided with Moscow in 1948, as did the other three, during President Tito's feud with Stalin.

The indictment states that the four had asked Yugoslav exiles in Moscow and Kiev whether the Soviet Army might

intervene in Yugoslavia if such an intervention was sought by someone in Yugoslavia; and that they had maintained links with Yugoslav exiles in Russia and East Europe with the intention of overthrowing the existing system and bringing Yugoslavia under Soviet domination.

The trial is not likely to be held in public; the prosecutor has already asked that it should be in camera, in view of the nature of the charges.

## Yugoslavs accused of backing Moscow

From Dassa Trevisan  
Belgrade, Jan 7

Four Yugoslavs will go on trial next week for attempting to form a clandestine pro-Soviet organization which, according to the prosecution, maintained links with Yugoslav exiles in Moscow and was ready to seek Soviet intervention after President Tito's death.

The four were arrested last summer, when the campaign against the Communists was at its height

## Mrs Thatcher begins Middle East tour

From Paul Martin  
Cairo, Jan 7

Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Leader of the Opposition, said on arriving here today on a "fact-finding" visit that the area's problems were the concern of everybody. The esteem in which Egypt holds the Conservative Party in Britain was shown by the prompt interview she was accorded with President Sadat.

As she walked smilingly into Cairo airport terminal with Mr Ismail Fahmy, the Egyptian Foreign Minister, she was given a round of applause by a group which included airport workers and security men. At a hastily-convened press conference she welcomed the growing relations between Britain and Egypt, enhanced by the recent visit of President Sadat to London.

During the next two days Mrs Thatcher will have talks with the President and other Egyptian leaders. On Friday she will fly to Damascus to meet President Hafez Assad and complete her on-the-spot look at the two most important "front line" Arab states.

Coming as it does after the postponement of Mr Wilson's scheduled visit to Egypt, her presence here has assumed an added significance, particularly as the Prime Minister's decision to put off his trip, ostensibly because of pressure of parliamentary business, caused a measure of disappointment among diplomatically-conscious Egyptians.

Mrs Thatcher's mission coincides with the beginning of what the Arabs have called "The Year of Palestine", but it is not known whether she will meet any Palestinian leaders, like Mr Yasser Arafat or his deputies, during her Damascus visit.

Egyptian newspapers noted with satisfaction this morning a statement in Kuwait attributed to Mr Patrick Jenkin, the Opposition energy spokesman, about a Palestine Liberation Organization role in the peace process. Newspapers quoted him as saying that if the Conservatives regained power in Britain they would work for full representation of the PLO in Middle East peace talks.

Although the Egyptians are anxious to foster relations with all western governments, whatever their political flavour, there is no doubt that Conservative stock is higher than Labour's. The Egyptians, and other Arab governments for that matter, believe that Conservative policy on the Middle East in recent years has been more "even-handed".

Of no less importance, is the "face to face" aspect of Mrs Thatcher's visit. Since she became leader of the Opposition her progress has been followed closely in the Arab world in the belief that she could be Britain's next Prime Minister. That a woman should hold this post is no small consideration in male-dominated Arab society.

Mrs Thatcher touched on this point when she spoke of the importance of "personalities" in dealings between Britain and the countries of the Middle East.

Mr Edward Heath, the former Conservative leader, flew back to London today after a week in Jordan at the invitation of King Hussein. He made no statement about his visit.

## New York politician accused of corruption

From Peter Strafford  
New York, Jan 7

Mr Maurice Nadjari, the ebullient special prosecutor appointed to investigate corruption in New York City, has accused Mr Patrick Cunningham, head of the Democratic committee for New York state, of selling judgeships and other offices.

The judgeships were sold, Mr Nadjari alleged, for either money or property. He also accused Mr Cunningham of having arranged other public and party jobs in exchange for

bribs, and on one occasion of having obtained a public position for someone in return for "improper handling of a case in the Bronx criminal court".

Mr Nadjari's accusations are some of the most sweeping for years on the doings of New York politicians. They come based on an attempt by Mr Hugh Carey, the state Governor and a Democrat, to remove Mr Nadjari from office, and they add fuel to the dispute.

Mr Nadjari, a Republican appointed by the state government in Albany to investigate corruption in New York City, resisted Mr Carey's move.

His affidavit accusing Mr Cunningham is destined to support this allegation. It says that last spring, when Mr Cunningham became aware that he was being investigated, "he expressed at the time to another individual his confidence that the special prosecutor would be removed by the governor before the investigation produced adverse results".

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## OVERSEAS

## CIA paid £3m to keep the communists out of power in Italy

From Patrick Brogan  
Washington, Jan 7

The Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) has been subsidizing Italian centrist politicians and parties in the hope that this will help to stop the Communists from entering the Government. At least \$6m (about £3m) has been paid secretly in the past month.

News of the surprising action was leaked from congressional committee members to supervise the activities of the intelligence community. Mr William Colby, the director of CIA, gave the information in secret briefings last month to those members of the committee who now days are entitled to know of such developments.

Reports in this morning's newspapers therefore raise not only the propriety of making payments to Italian politicians but the fundamental question of whether the Administration can now ever trust Congress to keep a secret. This is only the latest of such leaks: the most recent whether examples concerned Angola.

Congressmen who attended the Colby briefings now confirm the essential accuracy of the news reports, without going into detail. Mr Leo Ryan, a Democrat from California and a member of the House International Relations Committee, said he was "totally and thoroughly in disagreement" with the decision to interfere in Italian domestic politics.

Dr Henry Kissinger has long contended that the whole Mediterranean was in danger of becoming a communist lake. That was why he supported the Greek colonels until the last moment, with the result that today America is desperately unpopular in Greece.

The Secretary of State continued to follow a similar policy of friendship with General Franco, even taking President Ford to Madrid, despite the protests of his European allies.

The CIA is believed to have wanted to intervene in Portugal, but to have been persuaded to leave support of the Socialists in that country to European Socialists, who acted openly and therefore did not provoke the sort of hostile reaction which now seems likely in Italy.

The Americans, of course, contributed largely to anti-communist movements in Western Europe, notably in France and Italy, in the years immediately after the Second World War.

The CIA's investment in anti-Allende politics in Chile has recently been given great publicity. It was believed, however, that subsidies to Europeans were much reduced in the 1950s and early 1960s, and were ended altogether after the publication of *Ramparts* Magazine in 1967.

Washington, Jan 7—Mr Ron Nessen, the Presidential Press Secretary, told reporters today he was not going to comment on allegations about what the CIA might or might not be doing in Italy or elsewhere.

"But let me add this," he said: "The President is angry by seeing these allegations in print. The mere publication of allegations, whether they are true or not, do damage."

"The allegations make it difficult to work with and to continue to have a relationship with friends and allies around the world."

President Ford was reported to have discussed the news leaks in explosive language when he met senior White House officials today.

Our Rome Correspondent writes: Signor Benigno Zaccagnini, secretary of the governing Christian Democrats, tonight denied that his party had accepted money from the CIA.

The Republicans, partners in the outgoing coalition, and the Socialists also denied any allegations of having received such money.

## \$10,000 fine for falsifying date on Nixon papers

From Our Own Correspondent  
New York, Jan 7

Mr Ralph Newman, a literary scholar and expert on Lincoln, was fined \$10,000 (about £5,000) in Chicago yesterday for his part in falsifying the income tax returns of Mr Nixon, the former President. He had been found guilty of putting a false date on the donation of Mr Nixon's vice-presidential papers, so enabling Mr Nixon to claim a tax deduction.

In passing sentence, Judge Frank McGarr said that it would not be appropriate to send Mr Newman to prison or to put him on probation. He also commented that "the men were the architects of the fraud", and that it was necessary to remember "the prestige of being chosen to help the President".

Nevertheless, he concluded, "the crime is no less reprehensible and a respected public figure such as Mr Newman has a greater responsibility to uphold the law."

The case arose from the practice of donating presidential and vice-presidential papers to the national archives and claiming an income tax deduction based on their estimated value. Unfortunately for Mr Nixon, Congress passed a law, which he himself signed, putting an

end to these deductions for any papers not donated before July 25, 1969.

His own papers, dating from his days as Vice-President, had been donated to the national archives earlier, but were not formally donated until the spring of 1970. So Mr Newman who had valued them at \$575,000, signed an affidavit saying that they had been donated in the spring of 1969.

Charges have already been brought against two of Mr Nixon's White House advisers in connection with the case. One of them, Mr Edward Morgan, has served a four-month prison term. Mr Nixon himself is protected by the pardon given him by President Ford.

Washington, Jan 7—A special three-judge court ruled today that millions of documents and the White House tapes accumulated during Mr Nixon's term of office belonged to the Government and not to Mr Nixon.

The ruling upholds the constitutionality of a new federal law providing public access to thousands of hours of tapes and about 42 million documents. The court ruled, however, that the records of the Nixon years would remain locked away pending a possible Supreme Court appeal by the former President—AP.

## Ecuador's entire Cabinet resigns

Quito, Jan 7—The entire Cabinet of Ecuador has resigned to allow President Guillermo Rodriguez Lara to choose new advisers. General Bolivar Lopez, the Secretary-General of the Government, said today.

He said the 11-man Cabinet had resigned of its own volition and its nine military members had asked to be reassigned to military posts.

The general did not say why the announcement was delayed for more than a week. The resignation had added to the difficulties of the President, who put down a military rebellion last September 1.

General Bolivar Lopez added that the ministers were still functioning on a temporary basis until the President decides whether to accept their resignations. He expected all the resignations to be accepted.—Reuter.

## Planned supersonic aircraft fleet 'no radiation threat'

From Our Correspondent  
Geneva, Jan 7

Present plans for between 30 and 50 supersonic transport aircraft in service in the 1980s pose no threat to the ozone layer in the stratosphere which protects the Earth from harmful solar radiations, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) said today.

A statement representing "the best available scientific assessment" blamed chlorofluoromethanes (freons) from domestic and industrial aerosols as the main danger to the ozone layer.

It added, however, that a fleet of between 200 and 300 supersonic aircraft flying at greater altitudes could have "a noticeable effect" on the ozone layer, possibly requiring international action to limit the exhaust emission of nitrogen oxides.

"On the basis of evidence so far obtained, the potential threat of a considerable deple-

## Sexual hypocrisy decreed by Soviet professor

Moscow, Jan 7—Sex problems in the Soviet Union are still riddled in hypocrisy and secrecy and should be brought into the open for the benefit of Russia's youth, according to a Soviet professor.

In an article in the Moscow youth newspaper *Moskovskiy Komsomolets* Professor Yuri Tkachevsky said today that love and marriage were not private affairs.

He welcomed the translation into Russian of a foreign book *Youth and Love*, and said "it is high time similar books appeared by Soviet authors."

"Vitally important problems of sex are still covered today by the veil of pedagogical hypocrisy and secrecy... to ignore the specific task of sexual education is to cause damage not only to individuals but to society, too," he added.

tion of the ozone layer in the future must be recognized," the statement said.

The organization estimated that if freons continued to be released at the 1972 global rate for the next 30 to 70 years there could be a 10 per cent reduction in the ozone layer levels. This would result in an increase of some 20 per cent in ultraviolet radiation reaching the Earth's surface—enough to harm living creatures.

Another result, WMO pointed out, would be an average temperature drop of up to 10°C in the upper stratosphere. It put the present depletion of ozone due to freons already in the stratosphere at around 1 per cent.

The main concentration of ozone is at a height of between 12 and 35 miles. Its absorption of solar radiation is also a main source of energy in the stratosphere; any change could, therefore, have an effect on climate.

"It is not enough to be Hungarian: you must also have talent". Clarisse Loxton Peacock, an artist who came to this country from Hungary at the age of 18, quotes this adage and presents as evidence 10 one-woman shows—the last has just closed at Frost and Reed in Bond Street. There have been three in Germany and one in New York: now there is to be one in Paris. She sold more than two-thirds of her paintings at the last show, and she is now commuting between Paris (where her husband is working) and their London house. Their two children are grown up.

Paris she doesn't like, New York she hates—or rather, it is the social approach to art she hates: "the people who come to the openings, invite you to parties, and pass you on the street as if they had never met you. A wickedly amusing talker, she waves a paint bespattered apron and asks if she should frame it. "The critics would say that she must have been very unhappy when she did that."

Her paintings are all still lifes, and as Edward Lucie-Smith wrote in the catalogue for her London show: "These paintings follow in the footsteps of two of the leading quietists of modern art—the two painters Clarisse Loxton Peacock says she admires above all others: Morandi and Braque." The sudes she paints become arrangements with flowers, birds, fruit, and some paintings consist entirely of beetles or of butterflies.

The house she fell in love with in Kensington, with the studio in the garden, now has green empty spaces on the walls. There is her collection of porcelain birds—some from junk shops, some not—but one would think she would miss her paintings. "I lose

interest in them the moment they are finished. If you don't like a painting, you can put your foot through it. I just want to get on painting. For me, it is a joy."

She has been paid the ultimate compliment by the man in the street in that she has had three paintings stolen—one from a gallery, one from the Gare d'Est, and one from outside her house in the middle of packing them off to a show.

"I wake up at six o'clock in the morning, and there are still things to do at 12 o'clock at night, and I am still not in bed. I need very little sleep. Also I have an enormous amount of energy. To be a painter you must have an awful lot of energy. Also you have to have very strong legs, you know."

"I paint whether happy or unhappy. But I begrudge every minute that I spend away from my work, especially in daylight. There are things I would like to do. I would like to read much more, but then it seems to me a waste of time to read when I could be doing a little drawing. I must be completely mad, but that is what life is about."

"When I went off to Paris this time, I said I was going to be different—sit in a room and be clean and soignée, and I was going to read Dickens—I took with me *Barnaby Rudge*. But the moment I got there, we went to the Artists' Co-op, and I bought an enormous easel and a tarpaulin to cover my landlady's floor, and went to work immediately. I arrived on Tuesday in the afternoon; on Wednesday I started to paint, a big still life in navy blue and orange." On Friday she looked up again, went round some galleries and listened to what people thought about her paintings. "If people keep telling you that your paintings are terrible, then you find yourself becoming more and more noble by the minute."

## A woman with the essential qualities of an artist: talent and strong legs

"For a painter it doesn't matter if you are happy or unhappy—probably you paint much better if you are unhappy, because you are more turned inward, you know? I work much better under pressure, when I am slightly unhappy, away from home. I was in Paris, but I might just as well have been in Huddersfield. When painting one is away from the cities and the shops—I am not a shopper, what I would like is to get someone to buy my clothes. Clothes have to be very simple and very understated, preferably green. And not pretty. I don't like pretty. Painting completely excludes you from normal life—it's very solitary. Those first hours of the day while I am painting I don't talk to anybody. In the evening I do go out and see people, or they come to see me. Painters also have the problem that either it is so good that you hardly dare leave it or something dreadful will happen. You think about it, dream about it, and in the morning I rush in and look at it, and either think how marvellous, or I come back at three o'clock the morning, and think I can't go to bed and leave this—my God, tomorrow I will kill myself. Also, you are so dirty that it sets you aside. I can only go out if I change completely from top to toe. It is a terrible existence, a completely one-track involvement."

On her studio wall she has a little quotation from William Penn:

No pain, no palm  
No thorn, no throne  
No gall, no glory  
No cross, no crown.

She gave me a painting of a butterfly, and I told her that everything in the house now looked pale and insignificant. "My dear, I am delighted," said Clarisse Loxton Peacock.

Philipppa Toomey



## How the force of Habitat has taken a risky new direction

some of its products. Hanging from the ceiling of the Tottenham Court Road branch is the following manifesto: "Our lights have gone soft. We've added a softer, warmer range to our well-known 'architectural' lighting. Natural vine pendants, curvy perspex shades, lollipop-shaped standard lamps and these ceramic-based table lamps. Deepness in cream, earthy brown, light blue, twilight blue. And friendly, mushroom-shaped 'Fungo'."

Perspex may be as curvy as it likes, but it is still uncuddly. Perspex as far as I am concerned. With "lollipop-shaped" we are back with Noddy in Toyland—and this is the overriding impression of the Habitat Mark II range. We have retreated from space-age super-functional into escapist super-reeve, in which Silly Symphony pastiches of Art Deco and Austerity/Binge have a leading part. Super-reeve extends to the new TV advertising of Habitat, which records the

sounds made by those who use Habitat furniture—sighs of relief, groans of ecstasy.

What does it all portend? Biba, which relied on pastiche and never changed direction, has come to a sticky end. Habitat, which has changed direction, has survived: yet the weird thing is, the new direction they have taken is very similar to the one that ruined Biba. Habitat's Tottenham Court Road building is a superb example of 1930s architecture, and would deserve a preservation order if it had not been spoilt by the addition of the brushy Habitat entrance; and Habitat's new range matches its building's style.

Elba's suited the old Derry and Toms building which it too spoils by alterations. I think it is a false step for Habitat; and the supreme irony is that Habitat's dear old Heal's, who must have been so sniffy about Habitat wares in the early 60s, at this moment have their show

windows full of rectilinear furniture in the Habitat Mark I manner, while Habitat itself, nearly a next-door neighbour, is full of plump clubland sofas and armchairs. Habitat began as a style-setter and has become a style-follower.

I happen to prefer the style it now follows to the one it once set; but that is not very point. A wizard who offers us old lamps for new is a curious variation on the old pantomime. Apparently the reasoning behind Mr Conran's thinking is to stop Habitat being regarded as "a shop for kids" by producing some "traditionally comfortable" furniture. But as Evening Standard "It does seem paradoxical that these people (according to Habitat's numerous surveys) want the new, solid, traditional-looking furniture when exactly the same solid, traditional-looking furniture (sturdy built in the 1930s and 1950s) can be found

cheaper in practically every junk shop in the country." And is Habitat still offering low-budget furnishing (as undeniably it did in the 1960s) when the junk-shop type of sofa is priced at £195?

I feel we have reached the fast-end of sterile mimicry, as the Victorians had by the 1890s when Art Nouveau and then Bauhaus arrived to save the day. I believe that we are now entering the final phase of Revivalism before the assertion of a commanding new style relevant to our times. Traditionally we might have looked to Habitat for the new impulse; but it may be that Mr Conran is too old-fashioned to provide it.

Bevis Hillier

Times Newspapers Ltd, 1976.  
For those who do not share the author's views, Habitat's sales start on Saturday, January 10.

## There are other things to make in the New Year besides resolutions.

THIS MONTH Family Circle will put a lot of ideas into your head—including recipes that stretch your housekeeping as well as your imagination.

**BE A WINNER In our £4000 plus Holiday Competition**

**Family Circle** January 1976

**Follow our brides' course**

**Knit our two-way poncho skirt**

**Sew our wall hanging**

**Bake our budget cakes**

**Far Cui**

JANUARY  
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NOW!



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## The burning glass of healing genius

... from John Brown's "Red  
and his Friends", and nearly  
as much out of Smollett—but  
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## ENTERTAINMENTS

When telephoning use profile of only outside London Metropolitan Area

## OPERA AND BALLET

COLISEUM, 01-254 0161

ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA

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## THE ARTS

## Solid Rock Hudson

The forthcoming Phoenix Theatre season of Hollywood superstars in unlikely vehicles 'Charlton Heston in Macbeth, Louis Jourdan in 13 Rue de l'Amour what price Tony Curtis as Peer Gynt by next Christmas? opens on January 21 with an eight-week run of the two-character musical I Do! starring Rock Hudson and Juliet Frowse.

It is in some ways a brave choice for Phoenix, since Mr. Hudson's career has failed to get more than a few weeks out of the same show at the Lyric in 1968 and there was not an intentionally limited season. On the other hand, Mr. Hudson and Miss Frowse are clearly guests, and their American reputations have already sold half the tickets at the Phoenix in advance. Nor is Mr. Hudson quite so bizarre a choice of musical leading man as might at first appear: although it is true that until 1973 he had neither sung, danced nor acted on any stage anywhere in the world, he has since then been doing I Do! around America, and the drop of a top hat, with the result that it is now Miss Frowse who is the newcomer to its scene.

Hudson first got into the show at the invitation of the American comedienne Carol Burnett: both were doing highly-rated television series in California (Hudson's *McMillan and Wife* has just started a fourth season on ITV) and during their summer break in 1973 she suggested they should open on stage in Los Angeles. Hudson considered her offer for four days.

"Then I accepted: I figured, after all, that I had nothing to lose and everything to gain including experience. I learned the lines in one week, the score in the second week and then we had three more weeks in rehearsal. They say it's the most difficult of all the American musicals to do because there's nobody else on stage except this couple and they age 50 years during the evening. *I Do!* is based on *The Fourposter*, which Harrison and Lilli Ascher did on stage in the 1950s so that even during the costume changes you have to keep talking and when you go off stage you still have a microphone to carry on the conversation.

"Somehow, though, perhaps because it was the first show I'd ever done (and is still the only one) I took all that for granted and I only lost my voice for 10 seconds as the curtain went up. Since then it's been okay

and we've played Dallas and St. Louis and Washington. *I Do! I Do!* has indeed given Mr. Hudson a belated taste for the theatre: after it closes here in March he starts a massive American tour of *John Brown's Body* and has informed an indignant American television company (Universal) that he will not in fact be available for a sixth year of *McMillan and Wife*, the comedy-chiller series which has provided most of his living since his film career and Hollywood collapsed almost simultaneously in 1969.

Hudson has had a curious career. Born Roy Fitzgerald in Winnetka, Illinois, 50 years ago, he discovered at the age of 10 that he wanted to do with his life: "I went to see Jon Hall and Dorothy Lamour in *The Hurricane* and when he jumped from the crowd's nest to swim to her I knew that was what I wanted to do... act. So a few years later I took my mother to the film and told her to save my money and not worry about educating me beyond high school. Then, years and years later still, I was scuba diving with an old friend who was a stunt man and he told me he'd started by doing the dive off the crowd's nest for Jon Hall. So much for why I became an actor.

"In Hollywood I watched everybody, actors and directors, men and women alike, and gradually like that I learned a bit about how to do it. The parts got better but they were still in B movies and I used to experiment, knowing that nobody would ever really notice what I was doing. If you're stuck in *Taza, Son of Cochise* (1954) it doesn't matter if you try something and it goes wrong, so you may as well experiment—if it works, you can always do it again in a better and if it doesn't, who's to notice?"

At the time he was starting out in Hollywood, film stars of the Gable/Stewart generation had come back from the war visibly aged, and there was a sudden need for a whole new breed of clean-cut athletic, young leading men: it was the era of Cary Grant and Jeff Bridges. Hudson was taken up by Universal Pictures who gave him an 18-year contract and programmed him into Rock Hudson:

"Of course that was a mistake; Roy Fitzgerald would have been fine but I was young and from the Midwest and gul-



ible and they told me to change it so I did. Those were the dark ages, but I don't altogether regret them—after all, I had a regular paycheck for 18 years from Universal and when we started *McMillan and Wife* sure enough we were back in those same studios all over again."

Hudson survived his original beefcake promotion, just as he survived his first review in *Time* ("there was also something in the film called Rock Hudson") and it could be argued that survival has been his greatest achievement ever since; anyone who can make *Obsession* and *Captain Lightfoot* and no fewer than three consecutive Doris Day comedies of the 1960s does

not lack toughness. And it may be as well to remember that as late as 1970 he tied with Cary Grant and Elizabeth Taylor for third place in a box-office poll of the world's most profitable film stars.

Hudson keeps himself somewhat cautiously to himself. He is, however, prepared to reveal that he's made enough out of *McMillan* (around £20,000 for each of nearly 40 episodes) not to have to worry about where the work is coming from for the next few years:

"The television people think I'll be back for more, but I won't for as long as I can help it. That's where I'll stay."

Sheridan Morley

## Too True to be Good Globe

## Irving Wardle

Shaw's dramatic domineer is conventionally supposed to date from this 1931 extravaganza, from which I observed some of the usual wheeldrains being trundled out to greet the opening of Clifford Williams's *Aldwych* production last October. Catching up with it here in transfer, the play seems even more virile and astonishing than it did in Frank Dunlop's version in the early Sixties.

The piece, famously, breaks into three stylistically unrelated acts: beginning with a spot of high-society kidnapping, moving on to burlesque in the desert (with a high comedy tribute to T. E. Lawrence), and scuttling into a bleak existential finale. There is a perfectly good reason for that. Shaw's theme is the post-1918 collapse of inherited values, and to begin with he shows the child, even playing on the battlefield, to room up the social scale: the great thing is to get out of a traditional England as fast as the invalid's bedroom. The children then make the break and turn to squabbling and boredom: finally they drift off in sad pangs, still bewildered and unsatisfied, leaving the preacher to shriek an inaudible

sermon into the gathering storm. The sovereign quality of the play is that there is no means of telling whether Shaw was writing about the post-war generation or about himself. You cannot score him out on grounds of egotism or ignorance of the young as the text mines a continuous vein of life-giving ambiguity. If there is a hero it is the Lawrence Private Meek, a premature existentialist who retains his capacity for action in an absurd world.

Neither Michael Williams's affably all-powerful Meek nor any other figure is allowed to dominate the Globe stage, which offers as brilliant a demonstration of Shawian team work as I can recall. The company excels in those passages where Shaw's characters rebound from humiliation into self-respect. John Phillips, in projecting the Colonel as an ivory-headed blimp, is simultaneously preposterous as a passionate watercolourist: likewise Joe Melia, in transforming Sargeant from a man of the flesh, to a man of the spirit, as the ex-chambermaid, achieves a classic fusion of Liza Doolittle and Lolita. Finally setting aside the poet's profile and elegant pose of the artist preacher, as he feels his feet running out, imprints at least one indelible image on the memory.

## Park Lane Group Purcell Room

## Joan Chissell

The second of the Park Lane Group's five enterprising artists in twentieth-century music was shared on Tuesday by the guitarist Paul Gregory and the baritone Alan Oke in a programme which, though dominated by Britten, Berkeley and Thea Musgrave, also included a new work.

That was the song-cycle *Thoughts before going into battle* by John Weale (born in 1934), with words found in the Second World War, thought to be a certain K. D. Balfour, killed in action. The best because short and concentrated, was the second of the four, "prayer before battle", set as an accompaniment to a chorale-like piano link between each phrase. Though the piano contributes little to remember in the vocal writing, in fairness to the composer it should not be forgotten that the words themselves are "hardly great" (as Schumann, or the like, to give them wings, and Weale is

hardly that. Not surprisingly, Britten's *Songs and prayers of William Blake* on 17 brought far more out of Alan Oke. In characterisation he could hardly be expected as yet to rival Fischer-Dieskau, for whom the cycle was written. But though contrasts could have been stronger, there was no mistaking his response to words in admirably clear diction, or his agreeable, well-focused tone and cultivated musicianship. Derek Cresswell, in his turn, at least in partnership with him, was not far behind in the accompaniment of *Songs and Prayers*, second of Britten's three attractive Greek songs also included.

Britten and Berkeley also figured in the programme as composers for guitar: with Thea Musgrave as third man (her "Soliloquy" for guitar and tape was in fact the evening's most experimental offering) it seemed impossible ever to come plain against the paucity of this instrument's repertoire. The evening was Britten's *Nocturnal*. But all three works, not forgetting Berkeley's sensitive *Sonata for guitar*, were committed, in exceptional player, with a convincing sense of colour and sound to call on in atmospheric evocation.

## After the Americans the French

One reason for George Balanchine's special relationship with the Paris Opéra is the presence as director of Rolf Liebermann, with whom he is on terms of trust and friendship. But I imagine that the quality of the orchestra must be a further attraction. Few if any of the world's great ballet companies can rely upon playing such as one regularly hears at the Opéra; probably the Bolshoi, perhaps Balanchine's own New York City Ballet, but who else?

One of my most memorable musical experiences at the ballet was the Opéra's tribute to Varèse in 1973; they have matched it with their *Homage to Ravel*. The programme book tells us that it was Liebermann who suggested the project to Balanchine, to mark the composer's centenary; Balanchine took up the idea with such enthusiasm that it became a three-week Ravel festival for his own company last summer. Now the pick of the works from that festival have found their way from Lincoln Centre to the Place de l'Opéra.

The opening performances were given with great stars from New York but I went instead to see the local casts who have now taken over. My American friends had assured me that nobody except Suzanne Farrell would be able to carry off *Tzigane*; luckily they were wrong. Wilfrida Muriel brings her own assured charm to this piece, which Balanchine makes half-admiring fun of traditional theatrical gypsy dances just as Ravel does of Hungarian gypsy melodies.

Roger André is the violin soloist; he and Mamel Rosenthal, who conducts the whole evening, play with tremendous spirit, which Piollet matches in every shudder of her shoulders or flick of her skirt. Jean Guizerix and four supporting couples provide a fine backing for her, but one is scarcely conscious of them.

Quite the opposite of this ballerina showpiece is *Le Tombeau de Couperin*, staged to the orchestral version of the suite as an ensemble work for eight couples. Balanchine's choreography is as intricately formal as *Concerto baroque* but more complex scale. Nobody else, I think, could



En Sol: Ghislaine Thesmar and Jean Guizerix

have made such complicated patterns look so magnificently simple and apt to the music.

The cast is made up largely of the company's most promising soloists, who perform with an admirably relaxed elegance. The key to the work is a make-believe informality: the dances are casual (there is even at times a hint of square-dancing) but in fact are highly organized. The effect is comparable to Marie Antoinette playing at shepherdesses.

*Sonatine* is more genuinely informal. It is a duet, or perhaps might be more accurately described as a trio for two dancers and a pianist, since the player, Georges Pludermacher, sits at his keyboard while just inside the proscenium arch, and the dancers at times

nor can it have sounded better.

When it comes to the actual dancing, competition runs high for those of us who remember Patricia McBride or Suzanne Farrell in the leading role. Christiane Vlassi does not bring quite such eloquence to the role of the doomed girl, but her performance has a fine romantic feeling, and Cyril Atanasiou carries off passionately the part of her partner, unable to prevent her seduction by the dark figure of Death.

The *Valse Nobles et Sentimentales* which serve as prologue to the main action show off attractively several couples and trios, notably Florencia Clerc and Jean-Louis Lorneau, and the large cast swirls splendidly with unfeeling grandeur around the tragic hero in the finale. Ravel's score, written specifically for dancing, but turned down by Diaghilev, is a dream of mine, a dream of many of us, would come true next year when Festival Ballet is to acquire a home of its own in Queen Alexandra House, close by the Hall.

Miss Gail said that for the first time the company would have its own rehearsal halls, wardrobe, stores and other facilities under one roof. She explained the benefits this would bring to the dancers as present often required to rush from one part of London to another for classes, rehearsals and costume fittings.

The cost of a lease for 12 years and the necessary adaptations is estimated at £325,000. Substantial grants from the Arts Council and the Greater London Council, with a contribution from Festival Ballet's own accumulated reserve fund, will meet most of this. It is hoped to raise the outstanding £75,000 by public appeal and by proceeds of gala performances.

Mr Paul Findlay, the company's administrator, said the last year's production of *The Sleeping Beauty*, intended as a heavy investment to bring it heavy, had succeeded. The company's latest regional tour, had been the best-attended; they had known, audiences outside London having increased by more than 60 per cent in the past three years. Seasons in Australia and Paris had also been obtained, thanks to a new production.

John Percival

## Festival Ballet's HQ

Folklore. The *Golden Cockerel*, is to be given its first British performances for more than 25 years during season at Ballet's next London season, at the Coliseum, from April 13 to the Coliseum. The production will stage the revival, and Andre Delaut will be responsible for interpreting Nathalie Goncharova's original designs.

Also to be given during the Coliseum season are a production of *Clash of the Titans*, which was very popular when danced in that theatre by the Australian Ballet in 1973, and the first London showing of *Crystal*



Ronald Butt

## Is it politically possible to lay the ghost of Keynes?

Not since the war have post-Keynesian economics been under sharper attack than now. The Government's role as the printer of money, its lack of control over public spending, and the prevailing balance between the responsibility of the state and of the individual in discharging money, are all sharply questioned. Boosting the economy by budget deficits and borrowing looks ever more dangerous. We even have a Labour Chancellor who, in his broad strategy, is gingerly grappling with inflation along non-Keynesian lines, against the tradition of his party and despite the fact that, in other respects, the climate of the times is producing a strong wind from socialism.

From a Conservative government, one would expect a fuller logic of a controlled money supply and free market system to be applied. But how far would this be possible, even under a Tory leader as convinced as Mrs Thatcher about the need for this sort of economic reform? Formidable hurdles stand between the theory and the practice, and the right place to talk about these seemed to be the lecture of Economic Affairs to the Conservative Party last night.

On the wall at the IEA hangs, like a giant, a portrait of J. M. Keynes himself. "Practical men, who believe themselves to be quite exempt from any intellectual influences, are usually the slaves of some defunct economist." Today, it is the theory of Keynes himself, though it is still the reigning orthodoxy, which is seen by its critics as the intellectual influence from the past to which practical men are slavishly obedient.

Even so the recent change of climate has been remarkable. Ten years ago, the IEA, with its devotion to Adam Smith, free market economics and the guidance of the economy by strict control of the money supply rather than by collector intervention was still regarded as a bit of a joke by most economic writers.

Today, the IEA has shifted some of the best known economic writers in its direction and a good deal of the most influential economic thinking comes from economists published by the IEA. To most economists, the analysis of Keynes, Friedman and other IEA authors has taken on a new relevance—as it has to Chancellors and Shadow Chancellors, however much they may disapprove their supply of money with such collectivist manifestations as Keynesian policy and industrial interventionism.

Even on the political left, it is increasingly appreciated that the argument advanced from 2 Lord North Street is delivered in the belief that standards of living (including health and welfare) as well as the education) as well as the general standard of living, would be improved if the state would concentrate on containing inflation created by government money-printing and restraint from towards allowing greater individual responsibility.

Yet the application of what one might call, in shorthand, IEA principles, with the acceptance of traditional unemployment figures without seeking to resist it by more of the inflation that was its cause, affords most received ideas. So does the role of the welfare state in the form we know it, since people have been schooled to believe that their own and their families' security depends on the present system.

With these thoughts in mind, I questioned Ralph Harris, the General Director of the IEA, Arthur Seldon, its Editorial Director, and John Wood, the Deputy Director.

I began by suggesting that the Keynes quotation might be taken as illustrating the impracticability in the real world of the application of the world of platonic ideas of applying any political-economic theory that went against contemporary political grain and attracted great hostility. What confidence could we have in the applicability of their market analysis in view of the political hostility to its findings?

Ralph Harris replied that the IEA was mainly engaged in long-range economic thinking and teaching, rather than influencing government policy in the short run. But, he said, "Keynes deliberately made his influential 'General Theory' controversial and challenging to the prevailing orthodoxy. His proposals for unbalanced budgets were so far removed from the then conventional banking wisdom that they seemed revolutionary and politically unacceptable."

"Yet 20 years after, the whole world was operating modified Keynesian policies. Thus Keynes himself was an example of the potency of ideas which initially meet spirited resistance but which then force their way through when existing policies fail. Today, the Keynesian theory can be seen to have solved the unemployment problem only at the cost of accelerating inflation. The counter-revolution of monetary theory has provoked the same sort of opposition as Keynes originally did. But in the end, it is not 'if it is valid, then so long as politicians go on saying it is impracticable, we shall go on suffering from inflation'."

I suggested that there was a big difference between the original opposition to Keynes in the 30s and the opposition to Keynesianism now. In the 30s, Keynesianism, however orthodox, was politically attractive. Hayek has himself recently said that Keynes made it respectable for the politicians, for the first time, to do the very things that they ought not to do. In sharp contrast, monetary theory is seen as politically unattractive. The whole sentiment of the Labour Party (and of some Conservatives) is still wholeheartedly Keynesian, calling for reflation and government money to provide jobs.

John Wood replied that the political attractiveness of Keynes came from those who claimed to be his intellectual followers at Cambridge who had "perverted" Keynesianism to a high spending approach, with continuous expansion of the public sector. "That appealed to the politicians—but the question is: are people satisfied with what they've got from the public sector? And the answer is 'No', especially when 'full employment' has had to be abandoned in consequence. As for monetarism, it will become attractive when the balance of pain from continuing inflation outweighs the anxiety about transitional unemployment."

Ralph Harris added: "We may, indeed, see that when the recent curb on monetary excess begins to slow down inflation, monetarism will become more acceptable. But the danger is that, if it is not so, we shall go on suffering from inflation. If you take a long view, monetarism must come through it as the only enduring remedy. Erhard and other great monetary reformers have had to kill off the old currency and introduce a new one; but in the end, monetary policy will be essentially the same and will therefore become politically expedient."

I asked if he was saying that it is only politically expedient of being applied in circumstances which are near catastrophe? Arthur Seldon replied: "The replacement of error by truth in economic ideas will speed up the time when you can make it acceptable. To move from money to welfare for a moment: IEA authors over the years have deliberately challenged the role of the welfare state. Their argument was that the neglect of fundamental economic forces of supply and demand led to the same bad results as everywhere else—shortages, maldistribution, wastage, bureaucracy, unnecessary high taxation and so on. 'Housing, everyone can now see, is in a mess, largely as a result of rent controls. Health, education and pensions are not far behind. Our economists have led the way, unconcerned with what happens in Westminster, or with that other enemy of clear thinking—the politically possible'. We go on analysing neglected issues, whether welfare, transport, monopoly—or we did with resale price maintenance—which people also used to say would never be abolished. When, as looks more likely almost daily, the welfare state breaks down, there will be an alternative set of ideas based on consumer choice, consumer payment, supply and demand, the so-called 'market forces' that no government can suppress for long without dire consequences, as more and more people are at last beginning to see."

I argued that a genuine market economy has never been operative since we have had a democracy of counting all the heads. "We've only had such a democracy for less than 50 years—and during that time politicians have had to appeal for office through the media and highly organized party machines, huge conglomerates of people. You've got to think of applying your economic ideas in these circumstances for the first time. It's all quite different from the solution society has turned to, politically, by a small number of people."

"I can see that it is arguable that we can't go on indefinitely with the present way of doing things, which provides neither the discipline of the market nor the full discipline of politically enforced state socialism. And, of course, if the present system breaks down, society might in every case find room for workers' co-operatives, as in the USA, Canada, Germany, Holland, Belgium, Australia or New Zealand. But there was a strong working-class tradition of self-help and independent endeavour. Trade unions themselves were an early example, as was the consumers' cooperative movement. The market system can be replaced by a system of co-operatives—so long as they do not demand perpetual subsidies and are ready to accept that their products must justify themselves in the market place."

John Wood said: "I think it's slightly unfair to set the thing up the way you did—by referring to our theory. We haven't invented a theory or doctrine. What has happened has been a terrible failure of intellectual articulation of the classical argument for the market—which was the common inheritance of the vast majority of professional economists. I used to think this could only be explained by the state of the media, especially when politicians are too inclined to think that leader-writers represented public opinion. They are certainly presenting a much more balanced picture now than short while ago—thanks at least partly to the work of IEA authors—so that quite a lot of market analysis is beginning to come through."

We then turned from political practicality and presentation to discuss the validity of market theories as such and whether, on the evidence from other countries, it can seriously be argued that it is the lack of a market economy which is at the root of Britain's ills. I hope to report on the second part of this exchange next week.

J. M. Keynes: 'Practical men, who believe themselves to be quite exempt from any intellectual influences, are usually the slaves of some defunct economist'



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## Better off Britain, by Mr Elliot Richardson



Mr Elliot Richardson and his wife Anne with Mr Joe Gormley (left) during a recent visit to a Nottinghamshire colliery.

human race to Mr Richardson's belief that "solutions can only be arrived at through a process of rational discussion and through addressing the fundamental facts". The situation in Northern Ireland, on whose realities he intends to address an American public which includes many IRA supporters, might make a good starting point.

Characteristically, Mr Richardson finds the normal yardsticks of gross domestic or national product inadequate as measures of well-being. You need, he says, "a factor in which even the quality of British life is reflected."

TV. To those short of cash, this could seem elitist. But Mr Richardson has talked to many trade unionists up and down the country. He sees quality of life rather than material well-being as the chief future preoccupation of advanced countries.

Perhaps because, like most of us, he may have sought out or brought out his own qualities in others, Mr Richardson senses a "wave of reasonableness" in Britain today, rooted in a clearer understanding of the factors underlying the country's problems. The basic components of a viable economy are, he believes, being thought out and articulated and absorbed. Laggard growth and investment are not all bad, "provided you can get the long term trend onto a reasonably steady footing, and subject to a reasonably basic consensus on the ingredients of a healthy economy."

There is no doubting the depth of experience from which this conviction has emerged, or the quality of the intellect behind that handsome profile. Although superficially very collected as he puffs his pipe and doodles with virtuosity on a pad, interspersing the pauses with long, complex and careful reflections there is about him a feeling of tightly leashed energy, an impression confirmed by his successful but very restless 30 years in Massachusetts and federal politics.

He is also to be seen in some sort of record by taking up his fourth Cabinet post, earlier ones have been Health, Defence (briefly) and the Attorney Generalship, from which he resigned with a halo during Watergate.

Reasonableness can produce some unexpected conclusions. One, which he has widely broadcast in these past weeks, is that the British are relatively better off than most Britons perceive (a favourite word). A second is that the relative role of the USA and USSR in the world as a whole has diminished, while that of Europe, and of Britain within it, has increased.

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## Leonid and Vera, a moving story from Moscow

"What about school for Slava?" "Plans for the development provide for a school by next year," Leonid answered awkwardly. "Meanwhile I thought Slava could continue at his present school."

"And travel back and forth by bus and Metro, more than an hour each way? Who's going to take him?"

"We can do it by turns," Leonid proposed weakly. "until he gets the hang of it. After all, he's eight."

"And let him get run over? A fine father you are."

"All right, have it your way," Leonid said in the manner of most husbands when cornered. "I'll deliver him to school in the morning on the way to work, only it's out of my way. Maybe you or your mother could make an arrangement to collect him after shopping. Our neighbourhood shopping centre won't be ready until next year."

"Next year? In two years?" Vera roared. "Why not wait until the place is livable? Why move now?"

"But don't you understand," Leonid said. "Our permit to collect the key to the new flat expires in five days. If we are not in the flat by then, it will be reassigned to someone else."

When Leonid and Vera reconnoitered their new home the next day, even she was impressed. The flat consisted of two bedrooms, a kitchen and bathroom, on the third floor of a 12-storey block assembled from prefabricated units. The entire development would eventually comprise more than 100 identical blocks, some of which were already occupied, others in various stages of construction. Leonid's block was on the perimeter, and a little balcony commanded a sweeping view of woods and fields.

If the plasterwork was slipped at the corners and around the window and doorframes, at least the walls were a clean, bright cream. The floors were of hardwood and the kitchen had a neat, modern look, with its gas range and wall cupboards. In the bathroom, a long revolving spigot served both the tub and washbasin. There were also two built-in wardrobes, something new to the couple.

Vera suggested it would have been nice to be higher up, but Leonid replied they were lucky to be where they were as the lift might not be ready for months, and lifts had a way of breaking down. Then they learned that it might also be months before the hot water system was in operation. Also, the distance to the bus stop proved to be more than half a kilometre that two blocks. Then walking was a precarious balancing act on a narrow boardwalk across a sea of greasy mud churned up by bulldozers and lorries.

But Leonid was determined to go ahead. He insisted: "If we pass up this flat, we lose our turn and goodness knows when we might have another chance. It's arranged for a moving van for the following morning, having got permission to take the day off. There were no regular vans available, for half Moscow seemed to be moving. Instead Leonid made a deal with a factory driver, who was not against making a little extra vodka money "on the side". For 20 roubles he promised to bring an extra hand.

One of the biggest problems in packing or moving is to decide what to take along and what to sell or discard. Leonid, who was for leaving almost all the furniture—on the grounds that he didn't want to transfer dust and stray bedbugs to the new, clean flat—clashed with his mother-in-law, who was loath to part with anything. Vera tried to arbitrate and working class values were essentially collectivistic: to secure personal security by collective action. "If collectivism really is built into the whole working-class rest of you, you're out of the house all day long. But I'll be cooped up with nothing to look at but the walls and no one to talk to but myself. She was already beginning to miss the neighbours with whom she had chatted and quarrelled in the communal kitchen for several weeks."

Leonid learned of all this some weeks later when Leonid phoned. There was no way I could reach him at home as phones would not be installed in the new development before the following year. We're having a housewarming day after tomorrow," he informed me, "and we want you and your wife to come. Don't try to drive out as you'd never find it on your own. The numbering system is not complete yet. Besides you'd probably get stuck in the mud. It's the best if we meet in town—at your Metro station. I'll be looking for you at seven sharp. And if you can spare it, bring a bottle of champagne. We're going to celebrate."

Edmund Stevens

Roger Berthoud

## Ask the deaf if silence is golden

You can be sure that anyone who tells you silence is golden, isn't deaf.

It's not just a matter of not hearing. Deafness can also mean not being able to learn. Or read and write. Or communicate. Or do anything fulfilling with your life.

The RNID aims to help all who suffer from deafness to overcome these problems. We provide a special school for children, a hostel for young adults, residential homes for the elderly. We run special laboratories, and a welfare service. Unfortunately, it all takes a lot of money.

We depend on donations, covenants and bequests to continue our work. We can't make silence golden but, with your contribution, we can at least go on relieving some of the problems.

So please give us something soon.

The Royal National Institute for the Deaf  
Room 3A, 105 Gower Street, London WC1E 6AH.  
Tel: 01-387 8033

The Royal National Institute for the Deaf  
helps deaf people to live with deafness  
(Patron: HRH The Duke of Edinburgh, KG)

## The Times Diary

Still treading the boards at 80

polished, immaculate man, he tells obscure American show business stories and smiles permanently.

"I keep going simply because I enjoy it; I have no thoughts of retiring. I kept going when I was 70; I might as well keep at it now that I'm successful." Did he have any remaining unfulfilled ambitions?

"Yeah, I'd like to do a high wire act."

Ticket touts have been enjoying the film *Jane*. Outside the ABC cinema in Fulham Road, London, they were asking and setting up to £5 for £1.30 tickets until the police were called to move them on. "You expect that sort of thing up in the West End, but we've never had it down here before," said the manager.

It is happening too at the Plaza in Lower Regent Street, where the film is having its West End screening. And there was a spate of black marketeering some months ago outside the ABC in Shaftesbury Avenue for *Murder On The Orient Express*.

EMI, who own the ABC cinema chain, disapprove of ticket touting





New Printing House Square, London, WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

## NO HASTE TO EUROPEAN UNITY

Mr Leo Tindemans's report on "European Union", published yesterday, is not likely to set any of Europe's rivers on fire. It bears the hallmark of its author's moderate and conciliatory temperament, and it is clear that one of his main preoccupations in writing it was to avoid proposing anything which any of the nine governments would be likely to reject out of hand. Since any one of the nine has the power to prevent any of his suggestions from being adopted, that was reasonable enough, but the effect is to make the general tone of his report so cautious as to leave little impact on the reader and, one may fear, little impact on the European Community itself.

Yet Mr Tindemans himself believes that he is proposing a series of "qualitative changes" in the life of the Community, such that the resulting European Union would be different in kind from the European Community that we now have. The key to his thinking is perhaps contained in the point which he lists last among six "components" of the concept of "European Union": "Like the Community whose objectives it pursues and whose attainment it protects European Union will be built gradually. Indeed he does not seem to envisage even a symbolic moment of inauguration, comparable to the signature of the Treaty of Rome. His European Union will creep on us almost imperceptibly.

The process may even have started already, with the institution of those forms of cooperation between members of the Community that are not envisaged in the Treaties—notably the coordination of foreign policies and the regular meetings of heads of government as the "European Council". Both these institutions are ones on which Mr Tindemans seeks to build. He proposes, for a start, "to put an end to the distinction which still exists today between ministerial meetings which deal with political cooperation and those which deal with the subjects covered by the Treaties". (This distinction was always somewhat artificial, and since the death of President Pompidou has already ceased to exist for most practical purposes.) And he

seeks to strengthen the role of the European Council by proposing that it should always indicate the institution or organization entrusted with executing its decisions—and if necessary also the time-scale—and by making the Council of Ministers (Foreign Affairs) formally responsible for the preparation of its meetings. These proposals are typical both in their extremely unspectacular nature and in the hint which they give of Mr Tindemans's impatience (widely shared by his colleagues) at the way in which past "decisions" have been left hanging without any follow-up.

Recognizing that progress towards a common foreign policy has been one of the more encouraging aspects of European cooperation in the last few years, Mr Tindemans seeks to extend this cooperation to "all external economic relations" and also to change the political commitment of the Member States which is the basis of political cooperation into a legal obligation: thus each State would not merely undertake, but be obliged "as a general rule not to take up final positions (on important foreign policy questions) without prior consultation with its partners". This too seems a fairly harmless requirement, to which no government can strongly object.

More controversial will be the proposal that, once the States have defined the broad outlines of their policy within the European Council, the Council (of Ministers) will then have the obligation to reach a common decision on specific aspects. As he says, "this obviously means that the minority must rally to the views of the majority at the conclusion of a debate". One can imagine certain issues—for instance the definition of a common attitude to the Palestine Liberation Organisation—on which not all governments would yet be prepared to bow to a majority verdict in this way. One may hope, on the other hand, that Mr Wilson and Mr Callaghan can now tacitly accept the implied rebuke in Mr Tindemans's plea "that come what may we appear united at multilateral negotiations relating to a new world economic order".

The statement that "European Union will not be complete until

it has drawn up a common defence policy" may still raise some hackles, but it is quickly followed by the admission that we are "unlikely to be able to do so in the near future"; and again the practical proposals—exchanges of views and cooperation in the manufacture of armaments—are scarcely revolutionary. One thoroughly sensible suggestion is that more trouble should be taken to obtain the understanding and support of European countries outside the Community "which have a democratic system similar to ours". But perhaps Mr Tindemans himself displays a certain lack of such sensitivity when he goes on to propose that the European currency "Snake" should operate and be controlled entirely within the Community—i.e. presumably in the absence of the non-EEC countries which at present participate in the Snake (Norway and Sweden). By contrast his recognition that certain EEC countries must be left outside the Snake for the time being, and that monetary union cannot be willed into existence unless and until economic and financial gaps between members are significantly narrowed, can only be welcomed on this side of the Channel and beyond the Alps.

What the British Government will probably not like, but should perhaps brace itself to accept, is the proposal that "recourse to majority voting in the Council should become normal practice in the Community field", and that similarly "in those sectors of external relations where the Member States have undertaken to pursue a common policy... minority opinion should rally to the view of the majority at the end of the discussion". What it will also dislike is Mr Tindemans's tendency to present European Union as a good in itself, rather than as something which may or may not be the end result of policies and processes adopted for their own sake. In that, however, he is probably representative of majority opinion on the continent; and perhaps in time even the British public will come to find the tangible benefits of Community life more attractive in a wrapping of European Vision.

## GUIDANCE FOR MUNICIPAL HOUSING

Housing is a field where sudden shifts of official policy are especially frequent and especially harmful. Uncertainty about the future makes private builders and local authorities alternately timorous and rash, and disturbs what ought to be the steady pace of activity in rehabilitation and construction. The present Government has been particularly apt to change its mind, in particular with vacillations last year over the share of encouragement that should be allotted to local authority lending for mortgages on one hand and spending on purchase and improvement on the other. Yesterday's early indication of the emphasis that councils are expected to favour next year is at any rate a gesture towards steadiness, supposing that wider pressures allow the intentions to stand.

The overall scale of spending in these categories has already been laid down by Mr Healey, and is less than what is allocated to be spent this year. The policy amounts to a guarded revival of municipalization and rehabilitation as against lending to house-buyers. In real terms the same amount of money will be allotted to municipalization next year as this—more than is likely to have been spent after the reversals of policy—and almost as much to conversion and improvement. For lending, less will be allocated than this year—and far less than

the amount that was in fact lent by councils pouring out mortgages in the early part of last year.

Since many local authorities were spending quite irresponsibly for both purposes last year, the mere distribution of the subsidy between the two gives no assurance that it will be used in an effective way. But so long as the money that goes to acquisition and improvement is not squandered on doctrinaire excesses, there is good reason for concentrating support on that rather than on council mortgages. The building societies are well off for funds at the moment—in fact they are almost finding it easier to borrow money than to lend it. There is a little more activity in the private market than there was, but buyers remain cautious, and there is no general excess of demand for local authorities to meet.

There is also some evidence that building societies have been more active than used to be thought in the risky parts of the market that councils concentrate on as a social service. The societies themselves estimate that upwards of one fifth of their loans are made on houses built before 1919, and more than a quarter go to borrowers enjoying less than the average income of a manual worker. Some societies remain much more timid than others, however.

## Price of potatoes

From Mr E. B. Byron Jones  
Sir, I imagine that the housewife must find it difficult to appreciate the validity of the recent official pronouncement that the rate of inflation and the cost of living have been falling for the past two months, when the price of three items of food essential in most households, namely bread, milk and potatoes, has risen sharply during the same period.

When the weekly wage increase was limited to 2s Mr Wilson promised that a similar watch would be kept on prices, particularly of food, but one seems to have waited in vain for action to curb the fabulous increase in the price of potatoes.

It has been stated that, compared with last year, the potato yield was, owing to the dry summer months, down by about a third. Seed potatoes were plentiful and inexpensive last spring, and the price of fertilizers has apparently remained fairly stable during the past year. Besides, stable manure is generally used for potato planting. Agricultural wages have risen during the period, but by comparison with other produce, potatoes do not require much attention from planting to harvesting.

In these circumstances, I would have thought that Mrs Shirley Williams's department would have directed some enquiry as to why potatoes are now being sold in the shops at about four times the price for the corresponding period a year ago. The farmers claim that they are receiving only a small share of the remarkable difference.

Yours faithfully,  
E. B. BYRON JONES

## English landscape

From Mrs Ruth Colyer  
Sir, Mr Faulds and Mr Perry have focused attention on the urgent need for a grant system and legislation which will arrest the despoliation of much of lowland England's natural beauty. In 1967 the Civic Amenities Act helped to arrest the despoliation of urban areas of "special architectural or historical interest", which could be designated as "conservation areas".

Could not the principle be extended to the countryside? The most cherished landscape areas in each neighbourhood could be designated, and agricultural changes of land use within them brought within normal planning control.

It seems anomalous that a new domestic window needs planning permission, but the conversion of 500 acres of ecologically valuable downland into a barley prairie does not.

Yours faithfully,  
RUTH COLYER,  
Orchardside,  
Shillingstone,  
Blandford, Dorset.

## The European anthem

From Mr D. A. Campbell  
Sir, Rather than attempt to sing Schiller's "Ode to Joy" in the unfortunate version provided by D. A. T. Dick (December 31), our contribution to European unity in 1976 could more profitably be a resolve to understand the language of the American anthem, which is the poem from which the European anthem is taken.

Yours sincerely,  
D. A. CAMPBELL,  
Helmstrasse 6.

## Industrial design

From Mr Victor Ross  
Sir, Sir Ore Arun (January 3) dis-  
torts a typical designer's concept. "Ignore the salesman", he counsels, "forget the undercurrents of the designer knows best". British industry is littered with examples of mismatched designs—from Concord to cocktail cabinets—which lack for nothing except willing buyers.

The truth is, of course, that good design in a commercial sense—begins with an understanding of what the customer wants, not what someone else thinks he ought to have.

"Lasting performance" is no more a criterion of good design than the quality of being green. What the customer seeks is gratification, which is produced by the interaction of price and perceived value in which durability and colour may or may not play a part. This is not a matter for Sir Ore to decide. The industrial designer's job is to find a solution in which customer preferences and technical feasibility are brought into balance as a profit to the manufacturer.

The lesson has been learnt abroad where there is no doubt about the customer's supremacy and the importance of research and salesman's instinct. If we are to regain some of our lost advantage in satisfying home demand and increasing exports, we had better shed the dangerous fallacy that good design in industry represents some objective standard when all our competitors know that its success is measured by the extent to which it gives subjective satisfaction in the mass market.

Yours faithfully,  
VICTOR ROSS,  
10 Templewood Avenue, NW3.

## Foreign Office role in export drive

From Lord Pritchard

Sir, May I be permitted strongly to support Lord Gore-Booth's letter in your columns today (January 7) and to pay a sincere tribute to the work of the members of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Diplomatic Service, both at home and abroad?

Both as Chairman of the British National Export Council and as President of the Institute of Export, I learnt at first hand and through the many members of those organizations, of the real and valuable support provided by the members of our Diplomatic Service at all levels of those of whose job it is to go out into the world markets and earn foreign currency for Britain.

It would indeed be a tragedy for our export drive if the relatively small amount of government funds at a time when we so desperately need exports—both visible and invisible. Indeed it is long overdue for the hard work done by our overseas posts to be more adequately rewarded than the reverse.

Yours faithfully,  
DEREK PRITCHARD,  
House of Lords.

From Mr Rupert Evans

Sir, Having raised the issue of diplomatic immunity from inflation and income tax in relation to boarding school fees for children of members of the Foreign Service in your columns in November, I was interested to read Lord Gore-Booth's letter (January 7) in defence of his troops.

In numbered paragraph 7 of his letter he admits that diplomats have privileges but infers that they are exempted from or outweighed by long separation from children of school age and by the "times" to be on call 24 hours a day seven days a week, although I would have thought these burdens are not unknown to, for example, members of the armed services, those in the medical profession, and businessmen trying to sell or market British goods abroad.

In order that the air may be cleared on the topic of school fees, perhaps Lord Gore-Booth or a member of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office would be good enough to answer the following three questions:

(1) What is the gross annual remuneration of a married diplomat of councillor rank (gross pay £10,235) on a home posting who has a son at a boarding public school, and a daughter at a boarding preparatory school, assuming that the fees of each school are sufficiently high to entitle him to the maximum educational allowances of £1,231, £1,117 and £1,164 for each respective child? My calculation is that to produce an extra £2,572 a year free of income tax, for a man already earning £10,235 a year, would require a gross earned income in excess of £20,000 a year.

(2) The pay of a councillor earning £10,235 a year is I believe arrived at after deducting some notional annual sum to represent the cost of his non-contributory index-linked pension. What is this notional sum?

Yours faithfully,  
RUPERT EVANS,  
7 New Square,  
Lincolns Inn, WC2.

## Buckingham degrees

From Mr C. O. I. Ramsden

Sir, I welcome your realistic, if not entirely optimistic, assessment of the problems still facing us at Buckingham (leading article, January 5), although the expression "massive enthusiasm" hardly applies to the many persons in all walks of life who have made our present modest start possible.

The fact that the CNA has not validated our degrees has not prevented the acceptance of our proposed licence as the equivalent of a BA degree by other universities, by the Council for Legal Education, by the Law Society, and by the Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators. Moreover, the widespread support which we have received from the academic world has been expressed in the help given to us by many eminent scholars in making our appointments, designing our courses, building our library and in many other ways.

On the business side, the presence on our Council of Management of the President of the CBI and three other eminent industrialists, and the support in other business quarters which has been voiced in your own columns, are most encouraging. We have had much help in a variety of ways from many individuals of differing political outlook.

You are right in saying that we do hope for a more rapid response to our appeal for an endowment fund. It is our belief, however, that many other individuals and companies who believe in the virtues of enterprise in all fields will respond to our requests now that our viability has been demonstrated.

Yours faithfully,  
C. O. I. RAMSDEN, Pro-Principal,  
The University College at  
Buckingham,  
Buckingham,  
January 5.

## Wiener Library

From Professor Walter Laqueur  
Sir, I appreciate Dr Adler's concern (December 16) about the fate of the Wiener Library in London, but I would like to assure him that there is no intention of closing down the library, now or in the years to come. In the absence of an endowment, good intentions may not be enough and the library, as in the past, will need the generous support of its friends.

Yours faithfully,  
WALTER LAQUEUR, Director,  
Institute of Contemporary  
History and Wiener Library,  
4 Devonshire Street, W1,  
January 7.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### The individual's right to work

From Mr Robert Moss

Sir, I am disturbed by the argument of Mr Alan Campbell, QC (Letters, January 6) that we must accept serious curtailment of the right to work through the spread of the closed shop because "a majority of those most clearly affected" wish this to be so. Those most clearly affected, in the first place, are neither the employers nor the trade unions that Mr Campbell mentions. They are individuals, including members of professional associations and smaller unions outside the TUC, who are now told that the right to work is not an absolute right, as it was always held to be under Common Law and as defined in the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights, but as something in the gift of a shop steward.

Right to work does not cease to exist because they cease to be enforceable; they cease to be respected, and society, as a result, becomes less free. But is the right to work unenforceable, as Mr Campbell says? In a revealing article in your pages last month, Mr R. J. Harvey, QC, argued the contrary—the supremacy of the ancient common law doctrine, which has been boldly upheld by Lord Denning in some notable judgments.

It is doubtful whether the new legislation designed to render the means for conscripting individuals into unions non-tortious will actually be held to overrule common law. For one thing, the method

employed (in essence, in a broader definition of "trade dispute") does not appear to cover closed shop arrangements agreed between employers and trade unions. This is an argument for the lawyers, but it provides hope for future litigation. The National Association for Freedom is willing to assist in cases where the individual's right to work has been seriously abused.

It is depressing to find a lawyer who has taken silk reflecting a widespread, but usually unspoken, assumption about British society: that we are destined to become a corporate state, and that the sooner we get there, the sooner we can have good industrial relations and peace throughout the land.

I fully agree with Mr Campbell that we should aim to strengthen and support responsible trade union leaders, but not by the course that he recommends. The suppression of the right to work and the continued strengthening of corporate interests at the expense of society as a whole will merely produce a new kind of authoritarianism, precisely, a British variant of Peronism, the brand of left-wing corporatism that served to stifle all economic initiative in Argentina and brought about that country's present condition of undeclared civil war.

Yours sincerely,  
ROBERT MOSS, Director,  
National Association for Freedom,  
Suite 63, Kent House,  
87 Regent Street, W1,  
January 6.

### Malta's economy

From the High Commissioner for Malta

Sir, Your Special Report on Malta (The Times, December 13, 1975) did not reflect the actual situation. May I be permitted to rectify matters.

The Labour Government assumed office in June, 1971, at a time when a disruptive property boom had burst, unemployment stood at 5,146 (4.8 per cent) and wasteful emigration and over-staffing in the public and private sectors were the main palliatives. The infrastructure was incomplete. The Malta Dry Dock, the island's main enterprise, was in shambles.

The Labour Government concluded a realistic Defence Agreement with Britain to the mutual satisfaction of both countries, gave Malta a new identity, culminating in the peaceful transition to a Republic within the Commonwealth. The island's main enterprise, the Dry Dock, and attacked the economic problems it inherited as well as others thrown up by the world slump.

By efficiently deploying the labour corps that were set up and with a minimum of capital spending, a sound infrastructure was built. A state-owned airline, shipping line and a successful telecommunications network were set up. Broadcasting and communications were localized. So was banking, in co-operation and association with major foreign banks.

The industrial and tourist sectors expanded more than anticipated under the 1973-80 Development Plan. In 1974 manufacturing output rose in value by 31 per cent over 1973, more than twice the 1970 level. The gross value added rose by 30 per cent of GDP (20.8 per cent in 1970), which expanded by 8.8 per cent in real terms in 1974. Total exports jumped from £M16.1 million to £M51.6 million between 1970 and 1974.

### London art market

From the President of the British Antique Dealers' Association

Sir, May I take issue with Mr Henry Phillips's naive and confused letter (January 7) on the future of the London art market?

The overwhelming majority of art and antique dealers would in fact agree with Mrs Geraldine Norman's view (December 23) that the "art market" may be shifting out of London.

One of the reasons is, we believe, the new 10 per cent premium imposed on buyers in certain London public auctions which, contrary to Mr Phillips's claim, has not been accepted by dealers. The present position is in fact that the trade is finding the findings of the office of fair trading, and the government department responsible, as to the precise legal status of the premium.

Mr Phillips's optimistic account of the state of the market reflects the past rather than the future. It is hard to see how the tendency of the auction houses to expand their operations overseas augurs well for London's continuing pre-eminence.

Finally, as for Mr Phillips's suggestion of the curtailment of so-called investment in works of art I would draw his attention to what Mr Hugh Leggat said in oral evidence to the Select Committee on a Wealth Tax on June 25: "As I have been a dealer for 30 years, I can categorically state that I have never sold, nor have ever been asked to buy, a work of art for investment purposes by any client. If a client has wanted to buy a picture, he buys it because he falls in love with it and he feels he can afford it. This is the truth."

Yours faithfully,  
GEORGE J. LEVY, President,  
The British Antique Dealers' Association Ltd.,  
20 Rutland Gate, SW7,  
January 7.

### Individual freedom

From the Headmaster of Loretto

Sir, After Dingle Foot's spirited article listing the Labour-Liberal efforts on behalf of the freedom of the individual (Dec 29), it will be refreshing to read his next, revealing his heart bleeding for the Ferrybridge Six. This to be followed, no doubt, with a dedicated blistering attack on the new docks scheme which would snuff a fair living from traders serving the community and dictatorially hand it to the Great Dockers' Monolith, thus further increasing this monopoly's stranglehold on our (the people's) food supplies.

R. B. BRUCE LOCKHART,  
Musselburgh,  
East Lothian.

### Soviet travel visas

From Mrs Maryn Matthews

Sir, Mr Bernard Levin performs a valuable service in drawing your readers' attention to the appalling way in which dissidents are treated in the USSR and other countries of the Communist block. May I add a brief comment on another, somewhat neglected, aspect of personal freedom in Russia.

I came to England in 1969 as a Soviet citizen, after marrying a British subject. For the past three years I have been attempting to get permission from the Soviet authorities for my elderly mother, who lives in Moscow, to visit my family here. People used to democratic governments might expect the Soviet authorities to show this individual particular consideration. She has never broken any Soviet

Since June, 1971, 88 industrial projects employing over 5,000 workers were launched. Hardly a slowdown in the tempo of the island's industrialization as alleged in your report.

The tourist sector, against 170,800 arrivals in 1970, 330,000 holidaymakers came in 1975. Moreover, whereas we continue to welcome an ever-growing number of our British friends, today we are also attracting an increasing flow of tourists from other sources.

Northward-bound, the world situation our balance of payments was again positive in 1975. A sound exchange rate policy has also helped in this regard.

And by the way, the EM36 Christmas bonus introduced by Government converts to £44 and not £29 as stated in your report.

In the period covered, social benefits were trebled and on a rising trend brought about a just redistribution of income. Inflation was kept to a single digit figure and flat annual cost of living bonuses were given.

The Government's policy, as your report suggested, have resulted in a steady expansion in the standard of living in real terms. For example, middle-income has risen by 56 per cent since June, 1971, against the Retail Price Index of 25 per cent.

In the course of all this, the Government has acted to steer the boat steadily, intervening when necessary but, true to its belief in a mixed economy, leaving the private sector free to take any initiative it liked.

Malta has had and has its problems. For an island, without resources, open to external economic vagaries, it cannot be otherwise. But we are facing them and overcoming them successfully to a much greater extent than suggested in some parts of your Special Report.

Yours faithfully,  
A. J. SCERRI,  
High Commissioner,  
Malta High Commission,  
24 Haymarket, SW1,  
January 6.

the past rather than the future. It is hard to see how the tendency of the auction houses to expand their operations overseas augurs well for London's continuing pre-eminence.

Finally, as for Mr Phillips's suggestion of the curtailment of so-called investment in works of art I would draw his attention to what Mr Hugh Leggat said in oral evidence to the Select Committee on a Wealth Tax on June 25: "As I have been a dealer for 30 years, I can categorically state that I have never sold, nor have ever been asked to buy, a work of art for investment purposes by any client. If a client has wanted to buy a picture, he buys it because he falls in love with it and he feels he can afford it. This is the truth."

Yours faithfully,  
GEORGE J. LEVY, President,  
The British Antique Dealers' Association Ltd.,  
20 Rutland Gate, SW7,  
January 7.

law, but was imprisoned and exiled for 12 years, until 1949. My father was awarded the Order of Lenin for his party work in 1930, shot in prison in 1937, and apologetically "rehabilitated" with my mother in 1956.

Despite this, she has just been refused an exit visa for the third time. Two applications we have made ourselves to travel to Moscow via a family here also been turned down, once after the Soviet Embassy in London had actually issued the travel documents.

I write to you because our case is by no means unique. Many Soviet citizens are still prevented from visiting relatives in this country, for lack of Soviet exit visas. Neither are exit visas issued for Soviet wives living abroad, issued freely. In the sphere of reuniting families the Soviet signature of the "Helsinki Agreement" last August does not seem to have led to any significant relaxation of the old absurd restrictions.

I remain, yours faithfully,  
LUDMILLA BUBIKOVA  
(MATTHEWS),  
7 Alderbury Street, SW1.

### Anniversaries in 1976

From Miss North Shutter

Sir, May I suggest that to your interesting and comprehensive list should be added the name of "The Queen of the Desert", Lady Hester Stanhope, who was born at Chavening on March 12, 1776.

Yours faithfully,  
NORAH SHUTTER,  
17 Bessels Way,  
Ressels Green,  
Near Sevenoaks, Kent.

## London's lost jobs and population

From Mr David Hall

Sir, The recent proposal from GLC leader, Sir Reg Goodwin (reported January 3) that the council should reverse its policy of encouraging employment to move to new and expanded towns is misconceived and, in any case, doomed to fail.

Since the mid-1960s London has lost population at the rate of about 100,000 per annum and jobs broadly in proportion. What these people and firms have principally been escaping from is the excessive cost of London as a home or workplace, a cost which is primarily brought about by too many people and activities competing for too little space, thus pushing up land values and rents of all kinds. Therefore, to claw some of the people and firms back would only make matters worse.

But the GLC does, in fact, have very little control over the situation because only a small proportion (about 15 per cent) of the total outward movement that the GLC wishes to prevent is to the new towns. The bulk of the outward movement would continue unrestrained.

Moreover, it should not be supposed that the new and expanded towns will themselves acquiesce in a policy which would waste much of the investment already put into sewers, water supply and roads, etc., which are not yet used to capacity. Also, some of them have shown themselves very able in attracting people and firms from London without any help from the GLC.

As to what policy should now be adopted, it is no use our imagining there is any easy solution. However, it should not be forgotten that the main objective of dispersing people and jobs from London is and always has been to make possible the provision of better and more spacious living and working conditions. Although the opportunity to do this has so far been missed through bad administration, bad government and bad planning, this objective should still form the basis of planning policy for London. Unless it does, we shall not only drive out the business activity that legitimately should stay in the metropolis, but exacerbate an economic and social environment already hostile to those who cannot move out.

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID HALL, Director,  
Town and Country Planning Association,  
17 Carlton House Terrace, SW1,  
January 6.

### No PoW reunion

From Mr David Tudor-Pole

Sir, If the population has declined by nearly one million over the past two decades (The Times, January 3) can the chairman of the GLC tell us why there is still such acute shortage of accommodation? Why are the planners doing with the million empty beds? Yours sincerely,  
DAVID TUDOR-POLE,  
As from 20 Broadway Avenue,  
St Margaret's,  
Twickenham,  
Middlesex,  
January 4.

### No PoW reunion

From Mr E. J. Coffey

Sir, In your article published today (January 6), "Anglo-Japanese reunion plan for River Kwa bridge", it is stated that a M. Nagase of Tokyo received a letter from a POW association in London claiming that many former British servicemen were interested in meeting their former guards.

I wish to state categorically that no such letter was sent by an official of this club neither have we had any correspondence in any way with Mr Nagase. Furthermore, M. Graham Reynolds who is mentioned in the article was not a POW and has no authority from this club to make any statements on its behalf.

As a matter of interest, there is no such river as the Kwa, its name that was thought up by a Japanese who wrote the book *Bridge over the River Kwai*. This was however a bridge built over the river Khwae Noi at Tamarkan in which POWs had more than a vested interest.

Yours sincerely,  
E. J. COFFEY, President,  
The East Prisoner-of-War Club (1941-45),  
57 Greenhays Avenue,  
Banstead, Surrey,  
January 6.

### Franglais

From Mr T. D. Kingdon

Sir, You write (January 6) about the ravages of *le franglais* during the last twenty or thirty years. I began in a small way much earlier. I remember reading in a provincial newspaper nearly fifty years ago about an accident caused by a railway train: "Le wattman, n'a pas arrêté son trainway."

He was confined to the dining car, but certainly goods of a kind added in this country as "de lux" would often in France carry a label high life, pronounced to rhyme with fig leaf. But the day was to come when our neighbours introduced food rationing and, with the problem of French equivalent for the English "coupon", brilliantly came with ticker.











BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

# Implications of lower interest rates

With each day that passes it becomes more and more surprising that the other clearing banks have not moved to emulate Lloyds by dropping their own base rates from 11 to 10 per cent. Any doubt that they may have been waiting for the easier trend in interest rates over the Christmas period was frankly must have been well and truly dispelled by the performance of the gilt-edged market this week.

Admittedly, it seems improbable that Minimum Lending Rate will fall yet again this Friday. That would be too much good news in too short a space of time and would eliminate whatever opportunities might otherwise be open for the Government to sell to sell more gilts—and also to replace the two defunct "taps" quickly, which some question—on the back of a gently rising market.

But on the basis of the current strength in gilt prices, market expectations are none the less high that the current weeks will see further easing of short rates. Bank lending figures would certainly bear out these hopes, and there is also heartening news from the trend in interest rates in the United States, where Federal Reserve Bank target rates in the money market appear to have been lowered and prime rate cuts are widely expected. Meanwhile, Eurodollar rates yesterday dropped to their lowest point since January 1973.

It may be that the banks are right to be worried about the potential borrowing pressures which could arise in the gathering season, but by the same token the corporate sector and the banks themselves are liquid enough to take much of the heat out of this problem.

More justifiable as a cause for caution is how "tax" policy is to be operated from here. It would be remarkable if the Bank of England could resist the temptation generated by the market's present mood to rush out a new "tax" on, priced with a view to maximizing sales rather than allowing yields to drop.

And while there is doubtless a case in favour of lower interest rates as a means of stimulating the economy again, recent gilt sales have not mopped up anything like enough liquidity to remove the fears of an explosion in the money supply if the economy acquires too much momentum too quickly.

amount the IMF intends to sell. Indeed, if the whole amount funds its way into the hands of the world's central banks—and that is the only feasible repository now that private investors have grown cool on gold—that would be an important and certainly removed from the market.

Meanwhile, Portugal has at last come clean and confirmed that it has been selling on the free market, something that bullion dealers have been aware of for some time. The amount it admits to—four tons—is not large in comparison with South Africa's weekly sales of 14 tons.

But other countries have also been selling on the free market over the past year, including, of course, Russia (though they have also been stabilizing influence, buying gold when the price dipped below \$130) and Uruguay and Zaire as well. And in the thin market that gold has now become what has been more than enough to stifle any investment interest at lower prices.

With inflation abating as well as the lure of booming world stock markets, there has been none of the incentive for investors to buy gold that characterized the steep rise in prices over the previous three years. Undoubtedly, inflationary anxieties will prompt another recovery in gold, but that does not look probable until the second half of 1976 at the earliest. Meanwhile, the critical figure the free market will be looking at is the price at which IMF sells its gold.

If this correct, holders of gold shares could have a lengthy wait. At the moment, enthusiasm among some brokers for gold shares hinges largely on the supposed relationship between share prices and the auction price of the gold. It is not clear that the gold share price can only come back into favour if gold does.

Where gold shares do score, however, after their sharp fall over the past year is the historically strong yields many of the better quality mines now offer, particularly to investors prepared the rigours of the dollar premium.

That alone should make such producers as West Driefontein, Witwatersrand, President Brand and for uranium fans Hartbeestfontein as well reasonably compelling case for taking a more active stake in gold yet awhile.

## Gold Still doubtful despite the IMF

Gold has a past and a future—but no present. The price has recovered some of its poise since the International Monetary Fund pulled the rug out from under the market by its decision to sell one-sixth of its holdings—25 million ounces or the equivalent of just over South Africa's total production last year.

But meandering a few dollars either side of \$140 an ounce, gold has exhibited none of the old vigor and is unlikely to do so until given a push by inflationary pressures.

At present, the market is preoccupied with the outcome of the IMF meeting in Jamaica where the practice of disposing of the IMF holdings are being thrashed out. The one certainty in this—and the crucial point so far as investors in gold and gold shares are concerned—is that the gold will be sold in such a way as not to disrupt unduly the free market, where turnover is minuscule in comparison with the

## Inflation accounting Adding to the confusion

To start by being unfair to the Accounting Standards Steering Committee, it could scarcely have chosen a more inept heading to its latest press release, where the practice of adding inflation accounting is being thrashed out. The one certainty in this—and the crucial point so far as investors in gold and gold shares are concerned—is that the gold will be sold in such a way as not to disrupt unduly the free market, where turnover is minuscule in comparison with the

## AD International Dentsply pulls the rug

Dentsply International's decision to abandon its proposal to buy AD International for \$18m, 116p a share, bid for AD International sent AD's shares tumbling 30p to 85p yesterday. Although the dental products group is expected to turn in 1975 profits at least 10 per cent up on 1974's £2.96m, with the bid there should be little immediate support for the shares.

Despite AD's excellent track record, with a decade of unbroken profits growth and a fast expanding overseas earnings content, supporters in recent months have been almost exclusively bid-watchers rather than long-term investors. There could be some painful unloading of shares in the next few days as speculators close out. Once the price settles down, however, the earnings record, the continued marketing cooperation with Dentsply, and a prospective full year dividend of around 3.5p a share which is over three-times covered, could bring the buyers back.

## McCorquodale Defensive factors

For all that McCorquodale's second pre-tax profits were some £100,000 lower, and the group's directors are talking in terms of trimming capacity to reflect a somewhat reduced order book, the shares performed well yesterday, rising by 8p to 23p.

And an 8.45 per cent yield leaves scope for more appreciation, given that last year's net dividends were twice covered, and that reduced capacity utilization has checked the growth in working capital requirements—for all that the price of paper has continued to rise—and that planned capital spending is in line with projected cash flow.

Profits, from the looks of it, are going to be down this year; but the downturn should be limited by the highly specialized nature of McCorquodale's business: securing financing. The American acquisition, Falcon—something of a disappointment so far—provides the joker in the pack: but that is more than discounted in the share price.

Final:	1974/75	(1973/74)
Capitalization	£11.8m	
Sales	£38.43m	(£27.1m)
Pre-tax profits	£2.34m	(£1.92m)
Earnings per share	27p	(20.4p)
Dividend gross	19.6p	(16.9p)

Roger Vielvoye

# A year when oil should flow in earnest from its troubled N Sea waters

Barring unprecedented offshore disasters, 1976 promises to be the year in which Britain begins to see the first real benefits of North Sea oil.

The first dribble of home-produced crude oil came ashore last year from Hamilton Brothers' Argyl discovery and British Petroleum's Forties field. Five more fields are scheduled to join the list over the next 12 months, producing a total of between 15 million and 20 million tons of oil during the next year.

Estimates of production must necessarily remain vague, but a series of hold-ups in completing the installation of offshore facilities over the past two months means that the year and tally is more likely to be closer to the pessimistic 15 million tons rather than the 20 million tons target.

Experience has taught designers of oil production facilities to build into the plans every conceivable defence against the towering waves and sudden storms that the North Sea can produce. But, despite all the precautions, the elements can still get on top, as demonstrated when the Mobil group's 480-foot high steel tower for loading oil from the Beryl field broke free from its moorings in early December and drifted towards Norway. This one incident has delayed the "start-up" of the field by at least six months.

Shell Esso's much smaller Auk field has been dogged by teething troubles and production is only just beginning. Problems with securing the Piper Field's production platform to the seabed has also delayed the start-up of the field by at least six weeks.

It is problems like these and the ability of the oil company troubleshooters to correct them quickly that will ultimately decide how close to the 20 million tons a year target the fields will come.

From the country's point of view the difference between saving 15 million tons on the oil import bill and 20 million tons a year in financial terms, to £230m. For the companies this represents a loss of valuable cash flow at a time when the industry's resources are stretched.

Shortages of manpower and materials for the construction programme at the onshore stage, that made nonsense of the earlier schedules for bringing oil ashore, are not a vital factor in the final stages of the installation of production facilities for fields that will produce this year.

Planners now tend to allow a larger margin for delays in deliveries and the possibility of last-minute re-design work to accommodate changing requirements. New hold-ups in onshore work will be felt in the schedules for stepping up oil output in 1977 and 1978.

British Petroleum's success in bringing oil ashore by pipeline from the Forties field should ensure that total production does not fall below the 15 million tons estimate. Work has continued on field development throughout the winter and about 5,000 barrels of oil are coming ashore daily.

Drilling of the first well from the second of the four platforms being installed on the field is about to begin, and the overall programme is scheduled to produce an oil flow of 250,000 barrels a day by the summer, a rate that should be improved upon throughout the rest of the year.

Output will build up next year and is expected to reach a maximum of 400,000 barrels a day, which will amount to just under a quarter of Britain's daily requirement of oil.

Oil is also expected to start flowing from the much-delayed Shell/Esso Brent field, north-west of the Shetlands. The first



An offshore pipe-laying barge at work between the Brent and Cormorant fields.

concrete platform is already there and the offshore tanker loading and storage buoy is expected to be installed in the spring.

Loading oil into tankers will continue until the pipeline system into the Shetland Islands is complete. Several miles of pipeline were laid last year, leaving Shell, the operators for the two companies, to put down another 20 miles this year, along with further lines of smaller diameter from the fields in the Brent area into the main transmission system.

One of the few North Sea fields that may come on stream according to its original production schedule is the Amoco group's Montrose field, which lies about 130 miles east of Aberdeen. A single steel production platform has been installed and the development is on target to produce an initial 10,000 barrels a day by the middle of the year, building up to a total of 50,000 barrels a day.

The most serious of the problems facing the oil companies this winter is the future of the Beryl field's offshore loading tower. The giant steel structure broke away from its concrete base on the seabed on December 5 and, although it has been recaptured and towed to safety in Stavanger fjord, it has so far proved impossible to make a detailed inspection of the damage.

The French-built and designed loading buoy pivoted on a seabed universal joint that should have enabled the structure to tilt up to 20 degrees in bad weather and prevent just this kind of accident that happened. Mobil, the operator for the group, says that no estimate of the delay caused by a proper inspection of the damage has been completed.

Had the tower not broken free, Mobil would have started shipping oil ashore this month. Oil industry sources say that it is unlikely that the buoy can be repaired and reinstalled on the oilfield in time to get oil flowing before June.

Problems with the Auk field have been nagging, but not serious. Loading oil on to a tanker started briefly before Christmas but had to be suspended with less than a day's output on board. The vessel is once again on station and is expected to start filling up its tanks again shortly.

The Occidental group's problems on the Piper field have been more serious. Piling operations to keep the steel platform steady ran into difficulties because of the softness of the seabed. To try to keep the operations going during the winter the group had requisired a semi-submersible drilling rig, the Beryg Dolphin, as an equipment tender.

Occidental had originally intended to start the flow of oil along the pipeline to Flotta in the Orkney Islands in June, but the difficulties in handling the piling work have forced them to postpone the start date until mid-August or early September. Oil should be flowing at a rate initially of about 75,000 barrels a day.

Most of the interest in exploration drilling will be centred on the 32½ acre Magnus field on the Magnus field, which lies about 125 miles north-east of the Sullom Voe reception terminal on the Shetland Islands. Magnus has already been confirmed as a commercial field and the semi-submersible rig Sedco 703 is about to begin drilling a third well on the structure.

By the end of the year BP hopes that the rig will have drilled three or four new wells and defined the size of the discovery.

Information from the initial drilling has brought hopes that Magnus is at least as big as Forties. However, the oil bearing sands slope away sharply to the north on this structure and intensive drilling is needed to define the extent of the field.

British Petroleum, which is switching the bulk of its manpower from Forties development into the design and construction of the Sullom Voe terminal, is considering taking a major step forward in offshore technology in the development of the Magnus field. It would involve an underwater oil production system, allowing much of the processing work carried out on concrete or steel platforms to be completed on the seabed.

# Float like a bee, sting like a butterfly

One begins to wonder—maybe it is new year euphoria—whether after all and against all reasonable political and economic odds the Chancellor may not succeed in making some permanent dent in Britain's long ascent towards hyper-inflation. Certainly last Sunday's performance, a combination of realism, self-confidence and determination in attempting the impossible which commands respect as well as surprise.

It is very hard to say at least I am irritated by Mr Healey's stylistic vices that one loses sight of the essential merit of what he is doing. The misdirected pugnacity and frivolity of one who floats like a bee and stings like a butterfly conceal a sound instinct that reflection is dangerous and a laudable conviction that Britain can and should do better.

If property and stability in Britain over the rest of this decade and the whole of the one that follows depend on anything in 1976, they depend on the Chancellor's economy and not retreating to all accept the consequences. If Mr Healey can do that for another 12 months, he will have taken at least one step—and one step more than any of his predecessors—towards permanently reversing the trend towards accelerating inflation and declining employment.

It is worth quoting exactly what the Chancellor said, first about inflation and then about the future of pay restraint on which depends his ability to persuade people to accept the consequences of restraint of total spending. It added up, with due allowance for political adroitness, to an uncompromising defiance of conventional notions of political prudence as one is likely to hear from a senior minister in office.

On the subject of inflation the Chancellor said: "I think I can resist (pressures to reflate) until it is safe to do some general reflation. . . . It would be impossible for me to try to deal with unemployment by a general increase in demand of thousands of millions of pounds until we have got our inflation rate down to international levels and that has given foreigners and people at home the confidence in us which would enable us to borrow to cover our (balance of payments) deficit. Now we have not reached that position yet."

It will be some way into 1976 before we can feel satisfied that we have got inflation under control. Secondly, I shall have to decide what is going to happen to the economy anyway. One of the tragedies in past situations like this . . . is that the Conservatives got so used to the fact that when they increased demand just at the moment when demand was picking up anyway, with the result that in 1972 and 1973 you had enormous overheating in the economy and growth came to a halt. . . . Now I am determined to avoid that."

"I really do believe the British people have come to terms with reality in the last 12 months in a way they did not in any previous crisis. . . . I do not think the Conservative Party, the CBI and Cabinet colleagues) want me to do anything that will set inflation roaring off again or produce a situation in which we cannot finance our deficit and have to cut our standard of living by 10 to 20 per cent, which is what would happen, of course."

On incomes policy the Chancellor made it clear for the first time that, while the form of control will have to be more flexible than average, the advance in money earnings will have to be less in the next year round than in the present one and that that will probably have to be succeeded by a third and yet more restrictive norm in the next 22 or 23 weeks.

Question: "Do you think that the system of voluntary consent and the political realities . . . would ever accommodate a gradual progression down towards a restraining norm of 2 per cent?"

Chancellor: "Yes, I do."

Peter Jay  
Economics Editor

year and, of course, some allowance for what the market demand for different sorts of skills.

I think the real problem next year will not be so much in fixing the overall amount of the wage increase—I am fairly optimistic that people are going to be sensible about it. It is going to be how to have a very much more flexible type of arrangement which will enable us to correct some of these anomalies. . . . In most countries they have precisely this sort of system and it has worked very well, not permanently, but for very long periods.

Perhaps most remarkable of all, even after due allowance is made for the imprudence of some of the Chancellor's formulations, he talked of relaxing the tax burden on middle managers at a time when fiscal and monetary policies will not be relaxed, when unemployment is bound to be statistically very high, and when pay restraint will be becoming at least nominally more restrictive every year. If this will not yet make the pips throw their hats in the air, it should at least prevent the squeaking turning into screams of pain.

The Chancellor said: "There is one major problem of which I am deeply conscious; and that is the incentive problem for middle management. . . . The chap on between say, £4,000 and £8,000, who has taken a quiet caning and I would like to quite him. . . . I would certainly like on the whole to relax taxation on what people earn, even if it meant increasing it on what people do not earn."

Time alone will show whether the Chancellor can live up to the spirit of this strategy. But one would have to be even more sunk in pessimism than I am about the capacity of any government to solve Britain's economic problems to deny that a year in which general reflation was substantially resisted well beyond the nadir of the deepest postwar recession, in which the government has taken a grossly erratic stance towards the challenge of rising unemployment and in which the burden of tax on marginal earnings was markedly reduced, would make a real contribution to restoring sanity and vitality to Britain.

## Business Diary: Lord Erroll is in the chair

This division of labour—if that is the word to use of Lord Erroll, a Tory former President of the Board of Trade and Minister of Power—allows the peer to carry on his other interests, among them the chairmanship of Bowater. He will, however, be reviewing his lesser commitments.

Lord Erroll, who was once an engineering apprentice, is more popularly known as Lord Erroll of Fife, from his chairmanship of the Office Liquor Licensing Committee.

This produced a report a couple of years ago recommending longer and more flexible licensing hours and a lowering of the age at which young people might drink.

While the report has been gathering dust ever since, Lord Erroll says that it is not yet lost. A private member's Bill, which would permit pubs to stay open between 10 am and midnight, has, he says, a chance of getting through the House.

Pardoe's policy

John Pardoe found himself becalmed, but in friendly waters, when he fetched up once more in the City to address the Industrial Forum this week.

The Liberal MP for North Cornwall, he is to some extent the Rose Pollock of present economic exhortation, the man ever ready to see the leaden lining in any cloud.

His message this week was much the same as when he addressed the forum three years ago—only more so. Despite the Chancellor's soothing noises, he saw a British economy in decline for a century past, a



Thorpe and Pardoe: Where the wind's like a whetted knife (Masefield, Sea Fever).

decline unlikely to be halted by a mere change of government, even to one led by Jeremy Thorpe or John Pardoe.

Pardoe, who is 41, is commonly regarded as a contender for Thorpe's crown of thorns as Liberal leader. As a Liberal spokesman on economics, he is also conceivably a candidate for a Liberal place in any coalition.

A former deputy whip, party treasurer and now chairman of the party's standing committee on policy, Pardoe's own policy is similar to that of the Fat Boy in *The Pickwick Papers*—to make you flesh creep.

If the Liberals did not sow the wind, he seems to think, they must very usefully reap the whirlwind. The Liberals, he told the forum, should be the party of disaster. Then when people find that disaster is staring them in the face they will turn to the Liberal Party.

## City comedy

Bernard Hollowood, Richard Wilson's fellow cartoonist on *Business Diary*, produces his apologies in *Funny Money*, the latest collection of his writings and drawings.

"If I poke fun at the City and its denizens," he writes in the foreword, "it is because I see them as Key Figures and institutions in the human comedy."

In the public eye, hardly anybody, including cartoonists, is employed honourably and is free from the seven deadly sins, Hollowood avers.

Economists, for instance, are seen as dismal fannies unable to grapple with each other and as spouting platitudes disguised in jargon.

Exploring this topsy-turvy world, he quotes a Lloyd's man as saying that "the biggest profiteer in Britain is the Government itself. It prints money for practically nothing and floes it to the banks at 100p to the £, and I make that a profit of almost 100 per cent."

It is an achievement to make funny anything about money at the moment.

Macdonald & Jane's, £2.75.

## The Suez Canal on the way to recovery as a major seaway

The rehabilitation of the Suez Canal has proceeded over the past six months with a speed and success that have exceeded the hopes of the Egyptians as much as the expectations of others.

No one has been blown up. No one has crashed. No one has got stuck. So the most immediate fear of potential users when the canal opened last June (Was it safe to use?) is now pretty well laid to rest.

Traffic has built up steadily from about 10 ships a day initially to nearly 40 a day now, compared with nearly 50 a day before closure, and it would undoubtedly be more were it not for the shipping recession which markedly reduced the attractions of the canal, particularly for tankers.

So the other immediate fear of potential users—that tolls might be set at an unacceptably high level—has also turned out to be unfounded.

At about double pre-closure levels canal tolls have barely kept up with inflation, having been set, according to Dr Mashhour, chairman of the canal authority, to achieve maximum traffic rather than maximum revenue. The temptation to introduce differential rates, with higher charges for routes that benefit most, has been resisted (possibly because Egypt's Arab friends would be the ones to pay the higher rates) and even ship-owners concede that present toll levels are generally fair—with certain exceptions.

Fears about ships' safety have been removed and toll levels are regarded as generally fair.

The most important of these is tankers, which suffer a 10 per cent surcharge for containers carried on deck. Containership operators say this is unfair because boxes on deck no more than make up for empty spaces inside. The canal authority says that 10 per cent is more than fair since many containers carry 30 per cent or more of their boxes on deck.

In London yesterday talks with the International Chamber of Shipping (attended significantly by the Russians, who are canal after Greece and before Britain and Liberia) Dr Mashhour promised to reconsider the canal's status and to do so. Apart from the ACE, one of the Europe to Far East container consortia, none of the big international container groups, who probably constitute the most important user group after tankers, has as yet transferred to the canal route.

Tolls are not their only problem. The big second and third generation containerships of the canal's present dimensions are a tight fit and are still seeking assurances on things like access, tugs and turning circles.

But if all goes well, a switch to Suez by the thirty to forty big container ships of Trio, Scandinavia and AEGIS could be the big Suez news of 1976—not because they are particularly want to at a time when they like tankers, have surplus capacity, but because market forces will probably make them. Two longer-term doubts will war break out again around Suez, and will the authority try to push up tolls inordinately when canal-based route patterns are reestablished and the recession ends?

As to the first, a major requirement now being sought is an effective early warning system so that ships could be diverted to good time when trouble brews.

As to the second, Suez has no monopoly; Panama and the Cape are alternative routes. Shipping has learned to do so without it and could soon do so again.

Meanwhile, Egypt's confident preparation for a phase two expansion, giving a total of 150,000 tonnes by 1977, could only be a hopeful portent for world peace and world trade.

Michael Barry



## Gilts surge as now the short tap dries up

**Results**, boosted MacGregor's share price from \$22½ to \$23½, Brown & Caldwell from \$19½ to \$20½, and Ralston Purina from \$18½ to \$19½. The passing of a dividend led UU Textiles held a point down to \$3½.

The market also saw included shares of American Cyanamid Co., which rose from \$62 to \$63 and E.I. du Pont de Nemours & Co., which rose from \$21½ to \$22½.

The mild optimism of the CBI economic survey helped sentiment a little after hours. The two added a penny or more, while long-dated gilt went up eight points.

According to Exchange Telegraph, active stocks yesterday were ICI, Burnham Oil, Unilever, BP, Shell, RTZ, Trafalgar House new, Plessey new, Brooks Bond new, English Property Trust new, Anglo-Siam new, Boots, Savalet Industries, Union Discount, British Royal

## dividends

DIVIDENDS			
Year	Pay date	Year's total	Pre-ferred
1934	ago	total	2.00
1935	2/28	—	1.75
1936	0.75	20/2	1.75
1937	1.4	—	1.6
1938	1.75	20/2	1.75
1939	0.2	—	1.75
1940	0.55	12/3	1.4
1941	1.68	31/3	1.67
1942	0.52	—	0.75

Dividend net of tax on pence per share.

Dividends are shown on a gross basis unless indicated by T.S.A. † Adjusted

**GEORGE EWER**  
George Ewer is to buy from

**AMERICAN EXPRESS**  
American Express the remainder  
of the shares in  
Wills Coaches for \$48,000 (\$  
CERICAL MEDICAL &  
**ANCE**  
Total new ordinary life premium  
income for 1975 was £2.1m (£  
\$17m); new sums assured,  
£17m).

**ROYAL LONDON MUTUAL**  
Total new annual premium  
for 1975 under life Assurance p  
lected with the Royal Lon  
£1,000,000, £1,000,000, £1,000,000,  
to a record £61.2m. New  
annum in 1974). New  
£121.6m. Single premium income  
totalled £196,000 (1974 £212,000).

**MANTLE LIFE GROUP**  
The Mantle Life Group, consist  
of the United Kingdom of  
the United Kingdom of Great Britain  
and Northern Ireland.

and the Manufacturers Life Insurance Company (UK), issued new business in 1975 for annual premiums of £1.59m (£1.49m in 1974) and single premiums of £33.43m (£31.65m). These premiums covered sums assured of £51.6m.

**LIVERPOOL VICTORIA FRIENDLY SOC.**

New life sums assured were during 1975, £134,441 (£125,254). New premium income was £12,400 (£10,740). In the branch the new sums were £30,141 (£28,384) with new members 1,126 (1,026) and in the industrial branch new sums assured were £11,000 (£10,000) with new members 1,000 (900). Total income came of £5,538 (£5,160).

**KINA HOLDINGS : INSECT**

Mr Peter Shore has appointed Mr W. Denny, GC, and Mr Webb, chartered accountants, to investigate the affairs of Kina Holdings, of Ipswich.

**C. T. BOWMAN:**

C. T. BOWMAN's offer of £100,000 for the considerable undertaking of a profitable unsecured loan stock of £1,000,000 was accepted in 1961 for a now 10 per cent variable unsecured loan stock of £1,000,000. The offer was £17,646.31 nominal (70.2

**Business appointments**

## Lord Erroll to be Consolidated Gold Fields he

Mr. R. J. Joyce has been appointed to the board of JAG International. He will represent

[illegible]







## Stock Exchange Prices

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**Suitings** ...for the  
patterns of success

**THE TIMES SHARE INDICES**



A vacancy exists within the Secretariat of the N.A.P.F. for an Information Officer to specialise in pensions information. The person appointed will be required to disseminate appropriate information to members; organise and maintain a library, covering all aspects of the pension fund movement; liaise with Government departments and other relevant bodies; answer the day to day questions of members of the Association; and undertake desk research when necessary. Applicants must have had 3 to 10 years experience of this type of work not necessarily gained in the pensions movement. Salary will be attractive and membership of a good contributory pension scheme is offered.

Applications must be sent as soon as possible to:-  
J. D. Cren, Esq., Secretary,  
THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF PENSION FUNDS  
Prudential House,  
Wellington Road,  
Croydon CR9 2AD.







## Secretarial and Non-Secretarial Appointments

### NON-SECRETARIAL

#### MARKET RESEARCH ASSISTANT

£3,500  
To join a team handling the export sales of a major consumer goods company. Excellent career opportunity for a motivated individual with a degree in Marketing, Business Administration, or a related field. The successful candidate will be responsible for identifying and securing new export markets, maintaining existing accounts, and preparing export documentation. Please apply to: **MARKET RESEARCH ASSISTANT**, c/o The Times, 1, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF.

#### TOP TELEPHONIST

UP TO £2,600  
Experienced telephone operator for a busy office. Must be able to handle a high volume of calls efficiently and accurately. Good communication skills and a pleasant personality are essential. Apply to: **TOP TELEPHONIST**, c/o The Times, 1, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF.

#### CLERK/TELEPHONIST

Required for a busy office. The successful candidate will be responsible for general clerical duties and handling incoming calls. A degree in Business Administration or a related field is preferred. Apply to: **CLERK/TELEPHONIST**, c/o The Times, 1, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF.

#### RECEPTIONIST/TELEPHONIST

Required for a busy office. The successful candidate will be responsible for greeting visitors, handling incoming calls, and performing general clerical duties. A degree in Business Administration or a related field is preferred. Apply to: **RECEPTIONIST/TELEPHONIST**, c/o The Times, 1, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF.

#### TIP-TOP TELEPHONIST

£2,400 p.a.  
Required to operate a 2-position 10-line telephone system for a busy office. The successful candidate will be responsible for handling a high volume of calls efficiently and accurately. Apply to: **TIP-TOP TELEPHONIST**, c/o The Times, 1, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF.

#### CAN YOU COOK?

Fun-loving, hardworking girl, 20 or over, who enjoys a challenge. She is seeking a position where she can use her cooking skills and her ability to work in a team. Apply to: **CAN YOU COOK?**, c/o The Times, 1, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF.

#### ACCOUNTS DEPARTMENT

of small friendly professional firm requires an **ASSISTANT** who has experience of office work and is able to type. Office hours 9.30 to 5.30. Please apply to: **ACCOUNTS DEPARTMENT**, c/o The Times, 1, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF.

#### RESEARCH ASSISTANT

with fast and accurate access to a sophisticated back-up and information department in the city. £2.4+. Good salary negotiable. Please ring: **RESEARCH ASSISTANT**, c/o The Times, 1, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF.

#### INTERVIEWER/TELEPHONIST

Regardfully I must have been asked to interview for a position in your office. I am a motivated and experienced individual with a degree in Business Administration. I am confident that I can contribute effectively to your team. Apply to: **INTERVIEWER/TELEPHONIST**, c/o The Times, 1, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF.

#### SALES ASSISTANTS

Full or part-time. Must be able to handle a high volume of calls efficiently and accurately. Good communication skills and a pleasant personality are essential. Apply to: **SALES ASSISTANTS**, c/o The Times, 1, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF.

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Modern office. Must be able to handle a high volume of calls efficiently and accurately. Good communication skills and a pleasant personality are essential. Apply to: **PART-TIME RECEPTIONIST/TELEPHONIST**, c/o The Times, 1, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF.

#### EXPERIENCED BOOKKEEPER

To join a busy office. The successful candidate will be responsible for maintaining accurate financial records and preparing financial statements. A degree in Business Administration or a related field is preferred. Apply to: **EXPERIENCED BOOKKEEPER**, c/o The Times, 1, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF.

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#### W.I. Club

W.I. Club. Must be able to handle a high volume of calls efficiently and accurately. Good communication skills and a pleasant personality are essential. Apply to: **W.I. Club**, c/o The Times, 1, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF.

#### FLORIST

Experienced florist. Must be able to handle a high volume of calls efficiently and accurately. Good communication skills and a pleasant personality are essential. Apply to: **FLORIST**, c/o The Times, 1, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF.

#### AUDIT ASSISTANT

Must be able to handle a high volume of calls efficiently and accurately. Good communication skills and a pleasant personality are essential. Apply to: **AUDIT ASSISTANT**, c/o The Times, 1, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF.

#### SECRETARIAL

Required for a busy office. The successful candidate will be responsible for general secretarial duties and handling incoming calls. A degree in Business Administration or a related field is preferred. Apply to: **SECRETARIAL**, c/o The Times, 1, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF.

### SECRETARIAL

#### UNIVERSITY SECRETARY

The Deputy Secretary of a University. Must be able to handle a high volume of calls efficiently and accurately. Good communication skills and a pleasant personality are essential. Apply to: **UNIVERSITY SECRETARY**, c/o The Times, 1, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF.

#### BIRBECK COLLEGE

Barbican Arts and Conference Centre. Must be able to handle a high volume of calls efficiently and accurately. Good communication skills and a pleasant personality are essential. Apply to: **BIRBECK COLLEGE**, c/o The Times, 1, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF.

#### ADMIN. ASSISTANT

To join a small team in planning of a new project. Must be able to handle a high volume of calls efficiently and accurately. Good communication skills and a pleasant personality are essential. Apply to: **ADMIN. ASSISTANT**, c/o The Times, 1, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF.

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S.W.3. Must be able to handle a high volume of calls efficiently and accurately. Good communication skills and a pleasant personality are essential. Apply to: **SECRETARY/PERSONAL ASSISTANT**, c/o The Times, 1, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF.

#### CONTACT MISS DAVIES

ON 01-589 1800. Must be able to handle a high volume of calls efficiently and accurately. Good communication skills and a pleasant personality are essential. Apply to: **CONTACT MISS DAVIES**, c/o The Times, 1, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF.

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We require 2 first class Secretaries for a busy law firm. Must be able to handle a high volume of calls efficiently and accurately. Good communication skills and a pleasant personality are essential. Apply to: **LEGAL SECRETARIES**, c/o The Times, 1, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF.

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Super spot for an intelligent young Secretary with outgoing personality. Must be able to handle a high volume of calls efficiently and accurately. Good communication skills and a pleasant personality are essential. Apply to: **JOIN EXPANDING EDITORIAL TEAM**, c/o The Times, 1, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF.

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Veritable PA/Sec. needed for a busy office. Must be able to handle a high volume of calls efficiently and accurately. Good communication skills and a pleasant personality are essential. Apply to: **LIVERPOOL ST.**, c/o The Times, 1, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF.

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German speaking Secretary. Must be able to handle a high volume of calls efficiently and accurately. Good communication skills and a pleasant personality are essential. Apply to: **FRANKFURT**, c/o The Times, 1, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF.

#### P.A. TO SALES DIRECTOR

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#### GLYNEDBOURNE OPERA



# Motoring

## Minister takes fresh look at road safety

This year may become notable for the biggest crop of new road safety legislation since the 1930s. Action is expected on several important issues. Since his appointment last June Mr. Lyons has proved an energetic minister who has been prepared to take a critical look at many road safety issues, even to the extent of questioning the traditional views of his department.

Some of the changes likely to pass in law this year are the result of studies taken before Mr. Lyons came on the scene, so the credit will be entirely his. Again, not all the changes will be universally accepted as it is he who is allowed to say in the post. Mr. Lyons could join the very small number of transport ministers, including the late Lord Hore-Belisha and Mr. Marples, now Lord Marples, whose names have become household words.

He declared soon after taking office that his two priorities were seat belts and drink. It has been the policy of governments of both parties to make a seat belt compulsory, but attempts to introduce a bill have been held up for nearly 15 months by the House of Lords. Mr. Lyons has now introduced a bill for the compulsory wearing of seat belts.

Meanwhile several European countries have taken the lead, and in measure it is surely cannot be postponed much longer.

On drink and driving the minister has before him the report of the Blomfield committee, which was set up to examine the state of the law. Mr. Lyons decides may be known the next few weeks. Likely measures include new and more accurate breath-testing equipment, greater powers to carry out tests (short of road testing) and greater penalties for severity according to the blood alcohol level. Convicted heavy drinkers may have to undergo treatment before being allowed back on the road.

The annual vehicle or "MOT" test is to be extended in 1976 to take in motorcar washers and wipers, stop indicator lights and (from the 1977) exhaust systems. An announcement is expected in the first half of the year, and motorists will be given 6 months' warning. Mr. Lyons is keen on the possibility of including emission checks.

The Highway Code, most recently used in 1958, has long been due for revision, and a Green Paper setting out a new version appeared almost a year ago. As with seat belts, the difficulty of finding parliamentary time for necessary debates. If there is much delay the Green Paper will be of date as well.

Mr. Lyons's proposal that vehicles should have to use headlights at night, in well lit areas, stirred up so much public and parliamentary opposition that the regulations were withdrawn at eleven hours to allow further consultation. The minister will remain the arguments for and against measure before deciding whether to proceed. It might come back in a revised form; it might even be dropped.

The driving test has remained more

or less unaltered since it was introduced forty years ago and Mr. Lyons appears to be the first transport minister in recent times to accept that it might need revising because of today's different traffic conditions.

He would like to see parking techniques included in the test. Other suggestions he is considering are a written test on the Highway Code, the addition of motorway and night driving, and that candidates must have a minimum number of lessons with a professional instructor.

The first step will probably be a consultative document on which interested bodies will be invited to comment.

## Road test: BMW 320 automatic

The new BMW "3" series, runner-up to the Chrysler Alpine in the 1975 Car of the Year award, has just arrived on the British market. There are three models: the 316 with 1600cc engine and costing £2,799; the 320 with 2000cc engine at £3,249; and the 320i with 2000cc engine and automatic gearbox at £3,799.

The cars are five inches longer than the 1602 range they replace, and have more leg room in the back; they take their body styling from the bigger 520 model. Engines are basically as before but have been modified to give cleaner exhaust emissions and to run on lead-free, low octane fuel.

There has also been a small increase in power output, presumably to compensate for a heavier vehicle. Other main changes include rack-and-pinion steering and a revised all-independent suspension system; a curved fascia which ensures that all instruments are directly in front of the driver; improved heating and ventilation, and lower noise levels.

I see the "3" series as a worthy successor to the 1602, although it is a car of slightly different character. That is partly a matter of styling and partly the feel of the vehicle. The 1602 looked like a performance car and had a sporty handling to it. The new car has a more sedate appearance and is impressive for its refinement and comfort rather than its speed. As such, of course, it is very much in tune with the times.

With 0 to 60 mph acceleration in about 12 seconds, the 320 automatic is hardly a flyer, though the kickdown ensures adequate power for overtaking and the maximum speed is just over 100 mph. The automatic gearbox is admirably smooth. The engine is quiet unless driven hard, and there is little road noise, though, as on other BMWs, wind may be intrusive at more than about 50 mph. Using two-star petrol, it returned 19 to 25 miles to the gallon.

The handling, as one has come to expect from BMW, is first class, but with hardly any roll, gentle understeer and tenacious roadholding. The change to rack-and-pinion steering (not that the previous system left much to be desired) brings the expected precision, though I found it heavy particularly when parking. The brakes,

disc/drum, servo-assisted and on a dual circuit, produce a sure and progressive response.

The ride is firm, so are the seat backs, but except on poor surfaces neither detracts from the comfort of the car. Despite the extra leg room in the back, a tall person in the rear will still feel cramped; he will not have much to spare round his head, either. Nor is access to the rear seat as easy as it might be, one of the penalties of a two-door bodysell. The boot, however, is a spacious 16 cubic feet.

The curved fascia is an excellent innovation and I expect it to be widely copied. The instruments are large and easy to read, and controls neatly to hand. Visibility is generally good, though it is not quite possible to see the back of the car when reversing. The heating and ventilation system is a big improvement, both in output and in allowing for a combination of warmth round the feet and cool air to the face.

The bodysell has been designed to give good crash protection, with crumple zones front and rear and a reinforced roof. Standard equipment includes front and rear seat belts, revocation counter, clock and cigar lighter, fog lamps and, on the 320 model, twin halogen headlights.

## The future Cortina?

Ford of Germany is releasing details of its revised Taurus medium saloon today. As with other recent Ford facelifts, such as the Capri and Escort, there is an entirely new bodysell with the mechanicals much the same apart from detailed modifications to improve points such as handling and ride.

As on the new Capri and Escort, the bodysell of the Taurus is now more angular, pillars are slimmer and there is a much bigger glass area. The driver's visibility has been extended by lowering the bonnet line by about three inches. The boot has a higher sill than before, which may make loading more difficult, though Ford claims it will mean a stronger rear end and cheaper crash repairs.

The mechanical changes include negative camber and reduced toe-in on the front wheels to give better cornering, lighter steering and longer tyre wear; an alteration in spring rates for a smoother ride; and a stiffer anti-roll bar to reduce body roll.

The relevance of all that for the British market is that the Taurus is the equivalent of our Cortina, and changes at the German end are almost certain to be introduced here as well. The date remains to be seen, although the Taurus would seem likely. On the other hand, the Cortina, unlike the Taurus, has been selling so well that there is less need to change it; and with one new model, the "mini" Fiesta, already lined up for autumn release, Ford may be reluctant to soften the impact by launching a new Cortina at almost the same time.

Peter Waymark

# broadcasting

mes Bolam, the sharper of those Likely Lads, plays a Tyneside shipyard fitter with eas above his station in a promising new drama series set in the 1920s (BBC1 8.10). mibus, the arts programme previously seen on Sundays, changes its day and its vle to bring us a magazine of much variety (BBC1 10.10). Leonard Sachs may be lied upon as usual for sesquipedalian convolutions of complimentary sonorifics as : introduces a new series of The Good Old Days (BBC1 9.25). The new Arnold nnett serial gets into its stride (ITV 9.0). Ambulancemen sent to Coventry provide documentary (BBC2 8.15).—L.B.

15 pm. On the Move. 12.45. 1.00. Pebble Mill. 1.45. 2.00. Trumpion. 3.25. Fe a Fe. 4.00. Play School. 4.25. Deputy. 4.30. Jackdaws. 4.45. 5.00. Peter. 5.10. John Craven. 5.15. Charlie Brown. 5.40. Pad. 5.50. News. 6.00. Nationwide. 6.15. Tomorrow's World. 6.30. Top of the Pops. 6.45. Happy Easter. 7.00. Terry Scott. June White. 7.10. When the Boat Comes In. 7.15. Susan Jameson. A Land Fit for Heroes and Idols. 7.20. The Good Old Days. 7.30. Omnibus. 7.40. Tomah. 7.50. Weather.

Local variations (BBC 1):  
12.45-1.00. Transmitters duplicate.  
1.00-1.15. National. 1.15-1.30. National. 1.30-1.45. National. 1.45-2.00. National. 2.00-2.15. National. 2.15-2.30. National. 2.30-2.45. National. 2.45-3.00. National. 3.00-3.15. National. 3.15-3.30. National. 3.30-3.45. National. 3.45-4.00. National. 4.00-4.15. National. 4.15-4.30. National. 4.30-4.45. National. 4.45-5.00. National. 5.00-5.15. National. 5.15-5.30. National. 5.30-5.45. National. 5.45-6.00. National. 6.00-6.15. National. 6.15-6.30. National. 6.30-6.45. National. 6.45-7.00. National. 7.00-7.15. National. 7.15-7.30. National. 7.30-7.45. National. 7.45-8.00. National. 8.00-8.15. National. 8.15-8.30. National. 8.30-8.45. National. 8.45-9.00. National. 9.00-9.15. National. 9.15-9.30. National. 9.30-9.45. National. 9.45-10.00. National. 10.00-10.15. National. 10.15-10.30. National. 10.30-10.45. National. 10.45-11.00. National. 11.00-11.15. National. 11.15-11.30. National. 11.30-11.45. National. 11.45-12.00. National. 12.00-12.15. National. 12.15-12.30. National. 12.30-12.45. 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